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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WESTERN DIVISION

IN RE CONAGRA FOODS, INC.            ) Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGR<sub>x</sub>)

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MDL No. 2291

CLASS ACTION

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**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE**

## TABLE OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A: Order Directing Notice to Class Members

Exhibit A-I : Claim Form

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Exhibit A-3: Posted Notice

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## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This Settlement Agreement (“Settlement” or “Agreement”) is made and entered into as of the \_\_\_\_ day of September 2022 by and among the Class Representatives, individually and as representatives of all Class Members, by and through Class Counsel, and Conagra Brands, Inc. (formerly ConAgra Foods, Inc.) (“Conagra”), by and through counsel (collectively referred to as the “Parties”). The Parties intend this Agreement to resolve, discharge, and settle the Released Claims of Class Members fully, finally, and forever in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth below.

### WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, there is a multidistrict litigation pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, styled *In Re ConAgra Foods, Inc.* (MDL No. 2291), composed of actions seeking injunctive relief and damages relating to the marketing, advertising, and sale of Wesson Oil Products allegedly made from Genetically Modified Ingredients (“GMOs”) as “Natural”<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, Conagra denies any and all claims asserted against it, and has asserted various defenses that it believes are meritorious;

WHEREAS, the Parties’ agree that this Agreement shall not be deemed or construed as an admission or as evidence of any violation of any statute or law, or of any liability or wrongdoing by any of the Released Parties, or of the merit of any of the claims or allegations alleged in the Action, or otherwise, or the merit of any of the potential or asserted defenses to those allegations, or as a waiver of any such defense;

WHEREAS, the Parties previously engaged in extensive arm’s-length and adversarial settlement discussions that included two separate mediations; the first before the Honorable

<sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Definitions in Section I below.

Edward A. Infante (Ret.), former United States Magistrate Judge, in person on January 29, 2018, and thereafter by telephone through March 19, 2018, that failed to reach a settlement; followed by a successful mediation before the Honorable Douglas F. McCormick, United States Magistrate Judge, in person and by telephone from June 8, 2018 through November 12, 2018, which ultimately resulted in a settlement that was reversed by the Ninth Circuit. *See Briseño v. Henderson*, 998 F.3d 1014 (9th Cir. 2021). The parties have reviewed the Ninth Circuit's opinion thoroughly, as well as this Court's order concerning the previously-presented settlement, in order to address the concerns presented by those rulings.

WHEREAS, the Parties have conducted a thorough examination and investigation of the facts and the law relating to the asserted and potential claims and defenses concerning Conagra's marketing and sale of the Wesson Oil Products and assessed the various risks of litigation including risks from any future appeals in the Action;

WHEREAS, Class Counsel has concluded, after extensive factual examination and investigation and after careful consideration of the circumstances, including the claims asserted in the Complaint, and the possible legal and factual defenses thereto, and the Court's commentary regarding the likelihood of success of those claims, that it would be in the Class Members' best interests to enter into this Agreement to avoid the uncertainties, burdens, risks, and delays inherent in litigation and subsequent appeals and to assure that the substantial benefits reflected in this Agreement are obtained for Class Members in an expeditious manner; and, further, that this Agreement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class Representatives and the Class Members;

WHEREAS, Conagra, despite its belief that it has strong defenses to the claims described in this Agreement, has agreed to enter into this Agreement to reduce and avoid the further expenses, burdens, risks, and inconveniences of protracted litigation and subsequent

appeals and to resolve finally and completely Class Representatives' and other Class Members' claims;

WHEREAS, the Parties have considered the Court's decision not to approve a previously proposed settlement and the reasons therefor and believe they have identified solutions to satisfy Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and the Court's expectations;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree that the Action shall be settled, compromised, and/or dismissed with prejudice on the terms and conditions set forth in this new Agreement, subject to the Court's approval of this Agreement as a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e).

**1. CLASS DEFINITION**

**1.1** By Court's Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Amended Motion for Class Certification [ECF No. 545], eleven statewide classes were certified under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) to pursue the following claims:

- California: (1) violations of the California Unfair Competition Law, California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* ("UCL"), California Consumer Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §§ 1750, *et seq.* ("CLRA"), and California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.* ("FAL"); and (2) breach of express warranty (California Commercial Code § 2313)
- Colorado: (1) violation of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act, Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 6-1-101, *et seq.* ("CCPA"); (2) breach of express warranty (Colorado Revised Statutes § 4-2-313); and (3) breach of implied warranty (Colorado Revised Statutes § 4-2-314)
- Florida: (1) violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Florida Statutes Annotated §§ 501.201, *et seq.* ("FDUTPA")

- Illinois: (1) violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Illinois Compiled Statutes §§ 505/1, *et seq.* (“ICFA”) and (2) unjust enrichment
- Indiana: (1) unjust enrichment and (2) breach of implied warranty (Indiana Code § 26-1-2-314)
- Nebraska: (1) unjust enrichment and (2) breach of implied warranty (Nebraska Revised Statutes § 2-314)
- New York: (1) violation of the New York Consumer Protection Act, New York General Business Law §§ 349, *et seq.* (“GBL”); and (2) breach of express warranty (N.Y. U.C.C. Law § 2-313)
- Ohio: (1) violation of the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act, Ohio Revised Code §§ 1345.01, *et seq.* (“OCSPA”)
- Oregon: (1) violation of the Oregon Unfair Trade Practices Act, Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.605, *et seq.* (“OUTPA”); and (2) unjust enrichment
- South Dakota: (1) violation of the South Dakota Deceptive Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, South Dakota Codified Laws §§ 37 24 1, *et seq.* (“SDDTPL”); and (2) unjust enrichment
- Texas: (1) violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices - Consumer Protection Act, Texas Business & Commerce Code §§ 17.41, *et seq.* (“TDTPL”).

**1.2** The following Classes, which were limited by the applicable statute of limitations periods established by the laws of the eleven states, include the following persons, who will be notified of this proposed settlement and their rights under it:

- 1.2.1 California Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of California and purchased Wesson Oil Products in California, for personal, noncommercial use, between June 28, 2007 and July 1, 2017 (“California Class Period”).
- 1.2.2 Colorado Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Colorado and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Colorado, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2009 and July 1, 2017 (“Colorado Class Period”).
- 1.2.3 Florida Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Florida and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Florida, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“Florida Class Period”).
- 1.2.4 Illinois Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Illinois and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Illinois, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2007 and July 1, 2017 (“Illinois Class Period”).
- 1.2.5 Indiana Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Indiana and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Indiana, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“Indiana Class Period”).
- 1.2.6 Nebraska Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Nebraska and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Nebraska, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“Nebraska Class Period”).

**1.2.7** New York Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of New York and purchased Wesson Oil Products in New York, for personal, noncommercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“New York Class Period”).

**1.2.8** Ohio Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Ohio and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Ohio, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2010 and July 1, 2017 (“Ohio Class Period”).

**1.2.9** Oregon Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Oregon and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Oregon, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“Oregon Class Period”).

**1.2.10** South Dakota Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of South Dakota and purchased Wesson Oil Products in South Dakota, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“South Dakota Class Period”).

**1.2.11** Texas Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Texas and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Texas, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2010 and July 1, 2017 (“Texas Class Period”).

**1.3** Excluded from the Classes are (a) governmental entities; (b) Conagra, and its affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, current and former officers, directors, agents, and representatives; (c) the members of the Court and its staff; and (d) Opt-Outs.

## **2. OTHER DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Agreement and its exhibits, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below. Terms used in the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.



- 2.1** “Action” means the multidistrict litigation pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, styled *In Re ConAgra Foods, Inc.* (MDL No. 2291).
- 2.2** “Administrative Costs” means all costs and expenses actually incurred by the Settlement Administrator in administering the Settlement, including the publication of Class Notice, establishment of the Settlement Website, providing CAFA notice, the processing, handling, reviewing, and paying of claims made by Claimants, and paying taxes and tax expenses related to the Settlement Fund (including all federal, state, or local taxes of any kind and interest or penalties thereon, as well as expenses incurred in connection with determining the amount of and paying any taxes owed and expenses related to any tax attorneys and accountants), with all such costs and expenses to be paid from the Settlement Fund. All taxes on the income of the Settlement Fund, and any costs or expenses incurred in connection with the taxation of the Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund, shall be considered to be an Administrative Cost, and shall be timely paid by the Settlement Administrator without prior order of the court. The Parties shall have no liability or responsibility for the payment of any such taxes.
- 2.3** “Agreement” means this Class Action Settlement Agreement, together with the exhibits attached to this Agreement, which are incorporated in this Agreement by reference.
- 2.4** “CAFA Notice” means the notice of this Settlement to be served by the Settlement Administrator upon state and federal regulatory authorities as required by Section 3 of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715.

- 2.5** “Claim Form” means an electronic or paper document containing the information and fields substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A-3. The Claim Form shall be submitted under penalty of perjury, based on the Class Members’ knowledge, information, and belief, to the Settlement Administrator.
- 2.6** “Claims Deadline” means the final date to submit a Claim Form, which is one hundred and seventy-five (175) days after first publication of the Class Notice pursuant to the Notice Plan.
- 2.7** “Class Counsel” means DiCello Levitt Gutzler LLC, Tadler Law LLP, and Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman LLP.
- 2.8** “Class Notice” means notice to the Classes of this Agreement substantially in the form and following the procedures described in the Notice Plan and established by order of the Court and to be administered by the Settlement Administrator under the direction of the Parties and jurisdiction of the Court. “Class Notice” includes both a summary notice substantially in the form of Exhibit A-1 (“Publication Notice”) and a posted notice substantially in the form of Exhibit A-2 (“Posted Notice”).
- 2.9** “Class Member” means a Person who falls within the definition of one of the Classes and who has not properly executed and timely filed a request for exclusion from the Settlement.
- 2.10** “Class Representatives” means collectively (a) Robert Briseño and Michele Andrade for the California Class; (b) Jill Crouch for the Colorado Class; (c) Julie Palmer for the Florida Class; (d) Pauline Michael for the Illinois Class; (e) Cheri Shafstall for the Indiana Class; (f) Dee Hooper-Kercheval for the Nebraska Class; (g) Kelly McFadden and Necla Musat for the New York Class; (h) Maureen Towey for the Ohio Class; (i) Erika Heins for the Oregon Class; (j)

Rona Johnston for the South Dakota Class; and (k) Anita Willman for the Texas Class.

- 2.11** “Complaint” means the Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint, filed as ECF No. 143 in this Action.
- 2.12** “Court” means the Honorable Cormac J. Carney, or if he is unavailable, another judge in the Central District of California, the transferee district, as designated by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation to preside over the Action.
- 2.13** “Defendant” means Conagra Brands, Inc.
- 2.14** “Defendant’s Counsel” means Alston & Bird LLP.
- 2.15** “Fairness Hearing” means the hearing conducted by the Court in connection with determining the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of this Agreement under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e).
- 2.16** “Fee and Expense Application” means the application for the award of attorneys’ fees, costs, and/or expenses to Class Counsel and other counsel who claim to have performed work for the common benefit of Class Members.
- 2.17** “Fee and Expense Award” means the amount of attorneys’ fees and/or reimbursement of expenses and costs awarded by the Court to Class Counsel (for distribution to Class Counsel and other counsel), which will be paid out of the Settlement Fund within thirty (30) days after the Final Effective Date.
- 2.18** “Final Effective Date” means one of the following conditions has occurred: (1) if no timely appeal of the Final Approval Order by the Court is taken, then upon expiration of the time for any appeal, rehearing, or certiorari of the Final Approval Order; or, (2) if there are any appeals of the Final Approval Order, then (i) all appellate courts with jurisdiction affirm the Final Approval Order and the time for any appeal, rehearing, or certiorari of the affirmance has

expired; or (ii) the appeal is dismissed or denied such that the Final Approval Order is no longer subject to further appeal, rehearing, or certiorari.

**2.19** “Final Approval” means the Court’s issuance of an order and judgment granting final approval of this Agreement pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23€. Final Approval and the Final Approval Order need not include the Fee and Expense Award. A proposed Final Approval Order substantially in the form to be entered approving the Settlement is attached as Exhibit B.

**2.20** “Household” means all persons residing at the same physical address.

**2.21** “Motion for Order Directing Notice” means the motion or motions filed by the Parties pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) for an Order Directing notice to Class Members.

**2.22** “Notice Plan” means the plan to be approved by the Court for providing Class Notice in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e). The Notice Plan shall be in substantially the form of the proposed Notice Plan as set forth in Exhibit A.

**2.23** “Objection Deadline” means the date by which Class Members must file with the Court a written statement objecting to any terms of the Settlement or to Class Counsel’s request for fees or expenses, and shall be one hundred and fourteen (114) days after the Settlement Notice Date.

**2.24** “Opt-Out” means any Person who timely and properly submits a request for exclusion from the Settlement in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Agreement and approved by the Court and did not timely and properly revoke the request.

**2.25** “Opt-Out Deadline” means the deadline by which a Class Member must exercise his or her option to opt out of the settlement so as not to release his or

her claims as part of the Released Claims, and shall be one hundred and fourteen (114) days after the Settlement Notice Date.

- 2.26** “Order Directing Notice” means the order entered by the Court directing notice to Class Members, approving the Notice Plan, appointing the Settlement Administrator, and setting a schedule for the Final Approval process. A proposed Order Directing Notice substantially in the form to be entered directing notice to the Classes is attached as Exhibit A.
- 2.27** “Posted Notice” means the part of the Notice Plan that includes a notice of the proposed Settlement directed at Class Members to be posted on the Settlement Website, subject to approval of the Court, and substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A-2.
- 2.28** “Publication Notice” means the part of the Notice Plan that includes a summary form of electronic and/or print notice of the proposed Settlement to be published in certain hard copy or electronic formats directed at Class Members, subject to approval of the Court, and substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A-1.
- 2.29** “Released Claims” means any and all claims released by this Agreement consistent with Section 8, herein.
- 2.30** “Released Parties” means Conagra Brands, Inc., along with its parent(s), and each of its predecessors, affiliates, assigns, successors, related companies, subsidiary companies, holding companies, insurers, reinsurers, current and former attorneys, and their current and former members, partners, officers, directors, agents, and employees, in their capacity as such.
- 2.31** “Settlement Administrator” means JND Legal Administration or any other qualified third-party administrator selected and/or approved by the Court.

- 2.32** “Settlement Fund” means the qualified settlement fund to be established by the Settlement Administrator and funded by Conagra in the amount of \$3,000,000, in the form of a non-reversionary common fund and is to be established in accordance with 26 C.F.R. §§1.468B-1(c) and (e)(1).
- 2.33** “Settlement Payment” means those Settlement Funds to be paid to Class Members.
- 2.34** “Settlement Website” means the website established and maintained by the Settlement Administrator, pursuant to the Order Directing Notice.
- 2.35** “Valid Claims Form(s)” means timely submitted and complete claims form(s), signed by the Class Member, and verified by the Settlement Administrator to meet all the requirements set forth herein and to be free of fraud.
- 2.36** “Wesson Oil Products” means Wesson brand cooking oils, including Wesson Vegetable Oil, Wesson Canola Oil, Wesson Corn Oil, and Wesson Best Blend, all of which bore a “Natural” claim on label during the applicable Class Periods.

**3. SETTLEMENT FUND AND CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1** Settlement Consideration. Conagra agrees to fund a non-reversionary common fund, to be established by the Settlement Administrator, in an amount of \$3,000,000 (the “Settlement Fund”). Conagra is not obligated to pay any further costs or amounts associated with this Agreement. The Settlement Fund shall be used to meet the monetary obligations to Class Members under this Agreement, pay all Settlement Payments, Fee and Expense Award, Administrative Costs, service awards, and any other costs or expenses related to this Agreement.
- 3.2** Creation and Administration of Qualified Settlement Fund. The Settlement Administrator is authorized to establish the Settlement Fund under 26 C.F.R. §§1.468B-1(c) and (e)(1), to act as the “administrator” of the Settlement Fund

pursuant to 26 C.F.R. §1.468B-2(k)(3), and to undertake all duties as Settlement Administrator in accordance with the Treasury Regulations promulgated under §1.468B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. All costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator operating as administrator of the Settlement Fund shall be construed as Administrative Costs and shall be borne solely by the Settlement Fund. Interest on the Settlement Fund shall inure to the benefit of the Class.

**3.3** Funding of Settlement Fund. Within twenty-five (25) days after Class Notice commences, Conagra shall pay \$3,000,000 into the qualified Settlement Fund established by the Settlement Administrator. Conagra shall not be responsible or otherwise obligated to make any payment or cover any costs associated with this Agreement beyond funding the Settlement Fund as described herein.

**3.4** Conagra's funding of the Settlement Fund shall relieve Conagra of any liability with respect to the authentication of Claim Forms, the allocation of the settlement proceeds among Class Members, the timing and method of Settlement Fund distributions, and the distribution of any un-cashed distribution.

**3.5** No portion of the Settlement Fund shall be distributed prior to the Final Effective Date except for those attributable to Administrative Costs.

**4. RECOVERY FOR CLASS MEMBERS**

**4.1** Class Recovery. Payment of settlement compensation to Class Members shall be made by the Settlement Administrator on a claims-made basis and from the Settlement Fund on the basis of a Valid Claims Form or direct payment to the extent the Settlement Administrator is provided with information equivalent to

that in the Claim Form to identify any individual as a Class Member and the number of qualifying units they purchased.

**4.1.1** Class Members must submit a Claim Form that the information provided is true and correct to the best of each Class Member's knowledge, information, and belief, stating:

- (a) Name and address of Class Member's Household;
- (b) Number of units of Wesson Oil Products purchased during the applicable Class Period;
- (c) Purchases were made in one of the applicable states (California; Colorado; Florida; Illinois; Indiana; Nebraska; New York; Ohio; Oregon; South Dakota; and Texas);
- (d) State of residency at time of purchases;
- (e) Purchases were for household use and not catering or commercial purposes;

**4.1.2** Class Members who timely submit a Valid Claims Form may receive settlement compensation of Fifteen Cents (\$0.15) per unit of Wesson Oil Products purchased during the applicable Class Period.

**4.1.3** Recovery is limited to one claim per Household, which is defined as all persons residing at the same physical address.

**4.1.4** Pro Rata Adjustment of Settlement Compensation. If the total value of all Valid Claims Forms and amounts identified for direct distribution exceeds or falls short of the funds available for distribution to Class Members (after deducting the portion of Settlement Funds designated for New York and Oregon Class Members), then the amounts of the cash payments will be reduced or increased pro rata, as necessary, to use all



of the remaining funds available for distribution to Class Members. Any such pro rata adjustment will be calculated prior to distribution of funds (i.e., will be made in a single distribution).

**4.2** Additional Recovery for New York and Oregon Class Members.

**4.2.1** A portion of the Settlement Fund, specifically \$575,000, shall be allocated only to members of the New York and Oregon Classes who submit Valid Claim Forms or are identified for direct distribution, in proportion to the number of units purchased.

**4.2.2** The amount of additional recovery for New York and Oregon Class Members will be adjusted pro rata according to the number of Valid Claim Forms and direct distributions.

**4.2.3** In addition to being subject to the claim requirements set forth above, participation in this fund requires verification by a statement in the Claim Form or otherwise of the city or town in which the purchases were made in either New York or Oregon. The Settlement Administrator has authority to require additional documentation to validate residency.

**4.3** Timing of Distributions to Class Members. The Settlement Administrator shall pay out Valid Claims Form from the Settlement Fund, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, commencing thirty (30) days after the Final Effective Date. No distributions to Class Members shall occur until after the Final Effective Date.

**4.4** Treatment Of Valid Claims Forms Filed Under The Previously Proposed Settlement: Unless Class Members who previously submitted Valid Claims Forms opt out of this Settlement, or submit a new Claim Form, the Settlement Administrator will treat all previously submitted Valid Claims

Forms as valid claims for the purpose of this Settlement. For avoidance of doubt, the rationale is that any Class Member who does not opt out is bound by this Settlement if the Court approves it, and their previous Valid Claims Form establishes them as a Class Member and provides all of the information required for a Settlement Payment.

- 4.5 Uncleared Payments. The Settlement Administrator shall follow the California unclaimed property law as to any uncashed distributions remaining in the Settlement Fund after six months after the last distribution to Class Members.

5. **ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENT TERMS AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 5.1 Commitment to Support Agreement. Class Counsel asserts that it is in the Classes' best interests to consummate this Agreement, and the Parties agree to cooperate with each other and to take all actions reasonably necessary to obtain Court approval of this Agreement.
- 5.2 Motion for Order Directing Notice. The Parties shall file an Unopposed Motion for Order Directing Notice to the Classes.
- 5.3 Notice to Putative Class Members. After the Court has entered the Order Directing Notice, notice to Class Members shall be disseminated in such form and manner consistent with the Notice Plan as approved by the Court. Instructions to access the Settlement Website and electronically submit the Claims Form shall be included with the copy of the Class Notice disseminated to putative Class Members and posted on the Settlement Website. Upon request by a Class Member, a hard copy of the Claims Form shall be sent by the Settlement Administrator.

**5.3.1** The Parties agree that the methods of identifying and providing notice to the Classes set forth in the Notice Plan satisfies the notice requirements of due process, Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, and any other applicable laws, and constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Parties will jointly request the Court to approve in the Order Directing Notice the dissemination of notice as set forth in the Notice Plan. The Parties, by written agreement of counsel, may revise the Class Notice and other exhibits to the Settlement Agreement in ways that are not material, or in ways that are appropriate to update those documents for purposes of accuracy.

**5.4** Cost of Notice and Settlement Administration. All Administrative Costs will be paid from the Settlement Fund upon Settlement Administrator's submission of an invoice(s) to Class Counsel and Conagra's Counsel, should neither object or otherwise oppose the reasonableness of the invoice(s).

**5.5** Agreement Not Admissible. Neither this Agreement nor any statement, transaction, or proceeding in connection with the negotiation, execution, or implementation of this Agreement is intended to be or may be construed as or deemed to be evidence of an admission or concession by Conagra of any (i) liability or wrongdoing or of the truth of any allegations in the Complaint against Conagra, or (ii) infirmity of, or strength of any alleged defense against, the allegations in the Complaint; and neither this Agreement nor any statement, transaction, or proceeding in connection with the negotiation, execution, or

implementation of this Agreement shall be admissible in evidence for any such purpose in any proceeding.

**5.6** Settlement Statistics. The Settlement Administrator shall compile and send to Class Counsel and Conagra reports containing summary statistics detailing the implementation of the Settlement including, without limitation, the Settlement Administrator's fees and expenses, the number of proper and timely Opt-Outs, the number of Claim Forms received, the number of Claim Forms accepted, the number of Claim Forms rejected and the reason for rejection, and the number of Claim Forms determined by the Settlement Administrator to be deficient and the status of processing the deficiencies.

**5.7** Stay and Resumption of Proceedings. Contemporaneous with the filing of the Motion for Order Directing Notice, Counsel for the Parties shall (1) request a stay of all proceedings in In Re ConAgra Foods, Inc. (MDL No. 2291), and (2) seek an order from the Court pursuant to the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, and the Anti-Injunction Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2283, prohibiting the prosecution of any pending or subsequently filed litigation by Class Members arising out of or relating to the Released Claims. Proceedings in the Court arising out of and relating to this Agreement, and any other proceeding necessary to effectuate this Agreement in any other action shall be excepted from the stay. In the event the Court does not give Final Approval to this Agreement, the Final Effective Date does not occur, or this Agreement is otherwise terminated, this Agreement shall be of no further force or effect.

**5.8** CAFA Notices. Within ten (10) days after submission of this Agreement to the Court, the Parties agree that the Settlement Administrator shall serve notices of the Settlement on state and federal regulatory authorities as required by Section

3 of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715 (“CAFA Notices”).

If a state or federal official raises concerns about the Settlement, the Parties and their counsel agree to work together in good faith to resolve those concerns.

- 5.9** Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement. The Parties shall jointly seek an order granting final approval of this Agreement pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23. Class Counsel shall file a Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Fee and Expense Application, and the application for service awards to Class Representatives at least two (2) weeks before the Objection Deadline or as otherwise ordered by the Court. The Parties shall make a Supplemental Filing in Support of Final Approval with a declaration from the Settlement Administrator (with respect to the processing of Claim Forms) within thirty (30) days after the Claims Deadline.

**6. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

- 6.1** Settlement Administrator. The administration of the Settlement Fund and the Claims Form shall be subject to the Court’s supervision and remain at all times under the exclusive and continuing jurisdiction of the Court. The Settlement Administrator shall issue reports as requested by Class Counsel and Conagra regarding its activities, fees and expenses, and other procedures. Class Counsel or Conagra may raise by written objection filed with the Court any challenge to the procedures instituted by, or the fees and expenses of, the Settlement Administrator with respect to the administration of the Settlement Fund. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for disseminating information to Class Members concerning settlement procedures.
- 6.2** Notice. The Notice Plan shall satisfy Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and be subject to the Court’s approval.

**6.2.1** The Settlement Administrator, in accordance with the Notice Plan and the Order Directing Notice, shall provide all Class Members with the best notice practicable under the circumstances. Conagra represents that it did not sell Wesson Oil Products directly to consumers and therefore does not possess consumer contact information.

**6.2.2** As directed by the Order Directing Notice, the Settlement Administrator shall establish and maintain the Settlement Website, on which at least the relevant pleadings, settlement documents, any applicable deadlines, and the Posted Notice shall be posted in order to provide information to the Classes of the proposed Settlement.

**6.2.3** The Settlement Administrator also shall cause the Publication Notice to be published as provided in the Notice Plan and as directed by the Order Directing Notice.

**6.2.4** All notice contemplated under the Notice Plan shall be issued and completed by the times set forth in the Order Directing Notice, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

**6.3** Opting Out of the Settlement.

**6.3.1** Each Class Member may elect to opt out of the Settlement. Any Class Member who wishes to opt out of the Settlement must do so, in writing, by mailing a request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator signed by the Class Member (the “Opt-Out Request”). Any such request must be sent to the Settlement Administrator and postmarked by the Opt-Out Deadline. The Settlement Administrator shall work with Class Counsel to devise a mechanism to allow Class Members to opt out of the Settlement via online means available on the Settlement Website,

ensuring that Opt-Out Requests received via electronic means are valid and submitted by the individual Class Member seeking to be excluded from the Settlement.

**6.3.2** The Opt-Out Request must: a) bear the handwritten signature of the Class Member seeking to opt out; b) set out the Class Member's full legal name, valid mailing address, and functioning telephone number; c) state that the Class Member has reviewed and understood the Class Notice and chooses to be excluded from the Settlement; and d) provide the name of and contact information for the Class Member's attorney, if represented.

**6.3.3** No person or entity may opt out on behalf of another Class Member.

**6.3.4** All requests to opt out that fail to satisfy the requirements of this Section, as well as any additional requirements that the Court may impose, shall be void. No class-wide, mass opt-outs, or opt-outs signed by attorneys are permitted under this Agreement.

**6.3.5** Any Class Member who does not properly and timely submit a request to opt out as required in this Agreement shall be deemed to have waived all rights to opt out and shall be deemed a Class Member for all purposes under this Agreement.

**6.4** Objecting to the Settlement.

**6.4.1** Any Class Member who does not timely and properly opt out of the Settlement may object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the proposed Settlement under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Each Class Member who wishes to object to any term of this Agreement must do so, in writing, by either filing a written objection with the Clerk of

the Court or submitting a written objection to the Settlement Administrator as provided on the Settlement Website. Any such objection must be filed with the Court or submitted to the Settlement Administrator by the Objection Deadline and under the procedures established by the Court. Any such objection must (a) attach copies in advance of any materials that the objector intends to submit to the Court or present at the Fairness Hearing; (b) be personally signed by the Class Member and, if represented by counsel, by his or her counsel; (c) include information or documents sufficient to show that the objector is a Class Member; and (d) clearly state in detail (i) the legal and factual ground(s) for the objection, (ii) the Class Member's name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number, (iii) whether it applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the class, or to the entire class, (iv) if represented by counsel, such counsel's name, email address, mailing address, and telephone number, and (v) any request to present argument to the Court at the Fairness Hearing (also addressed in Section 6.5).

**6.4.2** Any objection that fails to satisfy the requirements of this Section, or that is not properly and timely submitted, may at the Court's discretion be deemed void and waived. The Court shall make the final determination if any objection complies with the requirements of this Section. Any Party may respond to any objection by the date as ordered by the Court.

**6.5** Requests to Appear at Final Approval Hearing.

**6.5.1** Any Class Member who wishes to appear and be heard in person or by counsel at the Fairness Hearing must make such request by notifying the



Court and the Parties' respective counsel through the Settlement Administrator (as provided on the Settlement Website), subject to the discretion of the Court. Any such request must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and postmarked by the deadline for filing requests to appear and under the procedures established by the Court, and must state the name, address, and telephone number of the Class Member, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the person that shall appear on his or her behalf. Any request for appearance that fails to satisfy the requirements of this Section, or that has otherwise not been properly or timely submitted, may be deemed by the Court to be ineffective and a waiver of such Class Member's rights to appear and to comment on the Settlement at the Fairness Hearing. Only the Parties, Class Members, or their counsel may request to appear and be heard at the Fairness Hearing. Persons or entities that opt out may not request to appear and be heard at the Fairness Hearing.

**7. EXCLUSIVE REMEDY/DISMISSAL OF CLAIMS**

**7.1** Limitation on Released Party Liability. No Released Party shall be subject to liability or expense of any kind to any Class Member or their respective counsel, Objector or their respective counsel, or Class Counsel related to the Released Claims or Settlement Payment except as provided in this Agreement.

**7.2** Dismissal of Released Claims. The Parties agree that upon the Final Effective Date of this Agreement, all Released Claims shall be dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Final Approval Order entered by the Court, including by seeking dismissal with prejudice of the Complaint.

**8. RELEASES AND RESERVATIONS AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE**

**8.1** In consideration of the benefits described and the provisions contained in this Agreement, all Class Members (regardless of whether a Class Member submits a Claim Form) promise, covenant, and agree that, upon the Final Effective Date and by operation of the Final Approval Order, the Class Members shall release and forever discharge the Released Parties from any liability for all claims of any nature whatsoever in law or in equity, past and present, and whether known or unknown, suspected or claimed, relating to or arising under any federal, state, local, or international statute, regulation, or law (including state consumer fraud, warranty, unjust enrichment laws, codal law, adjudication, quasi-adjudication, tort claims, contract claims, actions, causes of action, declaratory judgment actions, cross-claims, counterclaims, third-party claims, demands, and claims for damages, compensatory damages, liquidated damages, punitive damages, exemplary damages, multiple damages, and other noncompensatory damages or penalties of any kind, fines, equitable relief, injunctive relief, conditional or other payments or interest of any type, debts, liens, costs, expenses and/or attorneys' fees, interest, or liabilities) that have been or could have been brought in connection with Conagra's distribution, labeling, packaging, marketing, advertising, and/or sale of the Wesson Oil Products as "Natural" during the applicable Class Period, subject only to the express exceptions listed in the Reservation of Claims and Rights Section below. Specifically excluded from this release is any claim for bodily injury allegedly suffered in connection with the Wesson Oil Products. Conagra agrees to provide reciprocal and mutual releases to the Class Representatives and Class Members from any liability that was or could have been asserted arising out of or relating in any way to the

institution, prosecution, or settlement of the Action (“Released Defendant’s Claims”).

**8.2** All Class Members covenant and agree that they shall not hereafter seek to sue or otherwise establish liability against any Released Parties based, in whole or in part, on any of the Released Claims. Each Class Member expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles and releases any known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent Released Claims without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of different or additional facts. The Parties shall cooperate and assist one another in defending against and obtaining the dismissal of any claims brought by Persons seeking to assert claims released under this Agreement. Similarly, Conagra covenants and agrees that it shall not hereafter seek to sue or otherwise establish liability against any Class Representative or Class Member regarding this litigation, or any Released Defendant’s Claims that Conagra could have brought as part of this litigation or in litigation concerning distribution, sale, purchase, labeling, packaging, marketing, and/or advertising of the Wesson Oil Products.

**8.3** IN ADDITION, EACH CLASS MEMBER HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVES AND RELEASES AS TO THE RELEASED CLAIMS, UPON THE FINAL EFFECTIVE DATE, ANY AND ALL PROVISIONS, RIGHTS, AND BENEFITS CONFERRED BY § 1542 OF THE CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE OR ANY OTHER STATUTE, LAW OR PRINCIPLE OF COMMON LAW, WHICH IS SIMILAR, COMPARABLE, OR EQUIVALENT TO § 1542 OF THE CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE, WHICH READS:

SECTION 1542. GENERAL RELEASE; EXTENT. A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

- 8.4** Each Class Member may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which he, she, or it knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but each Class Member hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles and releases, upon the Final Effective Date, any known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent Released Claims with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims whether or not concealed or hidden, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts. Each Class Member also hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles and releases any and all Released Claims it may have against the Released Parties under § 17200, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code. Similarly, to the extent that Conagra hereafter discovers facts other than or different from those which it knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Defendant's Claims that it could have brought in this litigation, it mutually waives and fully, finally, and forever settles and releases any Released Defendant's Claims that it could have brought in connection with this litigation.

**8.5** Reservation of Claims and Rights. Released Claims shall not include any claim against the Released Parties for bodily injury allegedly suffered in connection with the purchase or use of the Wesson Oil Products.

**8.5.1** The Parties agree that this Agreement, whether or not the Final Effective Date occurs, and any and all negotiations, documents, and discussions associated with it, shall be without prejudice to the rights of any Party (other than those compromised in this Agreement); shall not be deemed or construed to be an admission or evidence of any violation of any statute or law, any liability or wrongdoing by any of the Released Parties, or of the truth of any of the claims or allegations contained in any complaint or pleading, whether in the Action, any other actions, or otherwise. The Parties expressly reserve all of their rights if this Agreement fails to become Final and effective substantially in accordance with its terms.

**8.5.2** If this Agreement is not approved by the Court substantially in accordance with its terms and does not become subject to a Final Approval Order following such approval, or the Final Approval Order does not become Final, then the Action, for all purposes, shall revert to its status as of the date before the execution of this Agreement. In such instance, Conagra shall be entitled to a refund of any money paid to the Settlement Fund that remains after all Administrative Costs are paid from the Settlement Fund (which shall not be subject to refund); for avoidance of doubt, Conagra would be entitled to a refund of , any Fee and Expense Award paid to Class Counsel, and/or any Service Awards paid to the Class Representatives.

**9. ATTORNEYS' FEES, EXPENSES, AND SERVICE AWARDS**

**9.1** As part of the Settlement, Class Counsel shall make an application to the Court for an award of fees and/or expenses not to exceed the amount of Class Recovery, to be paid from the Settlement Fund. Conagra retains the right to object or otherwise oppose Class Counsel's Application for a Fee and Expense Award. The Parties recognize that the Court shall have the final authority to award the amount of attorneys' fees and expenses but in no event shall Conagra be responsible for any award or amount above its funding to the Settlement Fund in the amount of \$3,000,000.

**9.2** Upon a Court order providing a Fee and Expense Award, any attorneys' fees and expenses awarded to Class Counsel by the Court shall be paid by the Settlement Administrator from the Settlement Fund within thirty (30) calendar days after the Final Effective Date. In the event the Fee and Expense Award is reversed, modified, canceled, terminated, or reduced for any reason, the relevant amount of the overpayment of attorneys' fees and costs paid by the Settlement Administrator from the Settlement Fund shall be returned to the Settlement Fund within thirty (30) days.

**9.3** Class Counsel shall allocate any Fee and Expense Award amongst Class Counsel and other counsel representing plaintiffs in the Action in a manner in which they in good faith believe reflects the contributions of such counsel to the prosecution and settlement of the Action. Conagra shall have no liability or obligation with respect to any attorneys' fees, costs or expenses other than funding the Settlement Fund as described herein. Conagra shall have no liability or other responsibility for allocation of any such attorneys' fees or costs and expenses awarded.

- 9.4** Conagra and the Released Parties shall have no liability with respect to any disputes among plaintiffs' counsel relating to the award, allocation, or entitlement to any fees, costs, or expenses. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over any disputes among plaintiffs' counsel relating to the award, allocation, or entitlement to any fees, costs, or expenses, but any such disputes shall not affect this Settlement becoming Final.
- 9.5** Conagra agrees not to take any position on an application for service awards of (a) up to \$3,000 for each of the Class Representatives who were deposed (Robert Briseño, Michele Andrade, Jill Crouch, Pauline Michael, Necla Musat, and Maureen Towey) and (b) up to \$1,000 for each of those who were not deposed (Julie Palmer, Cheri Shafstall, Dee Hooper-Kercheval, Kelly McFadden, Erika Heins, Rona Johnston, and Anita Willman). The Parties acknowledge the Court shall have the final authority to determine the amount of the awards up to these amounts in recognition of their service as Class Representatives in this Action.
- 9.6** Any payment awarded by the Court to the Class Representatives will be paid by the Settlement Administrator from the Settlement Fund directly to the Class Representatives within thirty (30) days from the Final Effective Date.
- 9.7** The Fee and Expense Award, if any, and payment of service awards to Class Representatives are subject to and dependent upon the Court's approval. However, this Settlement Agreement is not dependent or conditioned upon the Court approving any Fee and Expense Award, and/or Class Representatives' request for service awards, and/or awarding the particular amounts sought by Class Counsel and/or Class Representatives. In the event the Court declines Class Counsel's or Class Representatives' requests, or awards less than the

amounts sought, this Settlement will continue to be effective and enforceable by the Parties if not terminated pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

**10. TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT**

**10.1** This Agreement shall be terminated, without notice, if the Court declines to enter the Order Directing Notice, declines to grant Final Approval, or if such approval or other necessary orders do not become Final (as a result of reversal on appeal or otherwise).

**10.2** If the Court declines to enter the Order Directing Notice, declines to grant Final Approval, or if such approval or other necessary orders do not become Final (as a result of reversal on appeal or otherwise), this Agreement shall be of no further force or effect.

**11. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**11.1** Recitals. The recitals set forth prior to Section 1 of this Agreement are hereby expressly incorporated into this Agreement and made a part hereof.

**11.2** No Inducement. The Parties acknowledge, stipulate, and agree that no covenant, obligation, condition, representation, warranty, inducement, negotiation, or understanding concerning any part or all of the subject matter of this Agreement has been made or relied on except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

**11.3** Receipt of Advice of Counsel. Class Representatives acknowledge, agree, and specifically warrant and represent that they have discussed with Class Counsel (or their designees) the portions of this Agreement relevant to them, including the release of Released Claims, and received legal advice with respect to the advisability of entering into this Agreement, and the legal effect of this Agreement.



**11.4** No Tax Advice. No opinion regarding the tax consequences of this Agreement to any individual Class Member is being given or shall be given by Conagra or its counsel, nor is any representation or warranty in this regard made by virtue of this Agreement. Class Members must consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the Settlement, including any payments provided hereunder and any tax reporting obligations they may have with respect to this Agreement. Each Class Member's tax obligations, and the determination thereof, are his, her, or its sole responsibility, and it is understood that the tax consequences may vary depending on the particular circumstances of each individual Class Member. Released Parties shall have no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any such tax consequences resulting from payments under this Agreement. To the extent required by law, the Released Parties shall report payments made under this Agreement to the appropriate authorities.

**11.5** Notice of Breach. The waiver by any of the Parties of any provision of or breach of this Agreement, in whole or in part, by another Party shall not be deemed or construed as a waiver of any other provision of or breach of this Agreement, whether prior, subsequent, or contemporaneous, to this Agreement. In the event that one Party to this Agreement is notified in writing by the other Party of any alleged breach of this Agreement, the allegedly-breaching Party shall have fourteen (14) days from the date of receipt of such notice to cure any such alleged breach and to notify the other Party, in writing, of the cure implemented to address the alleged breach. If the Party asserting the breach is not satisfied with the cure, that Party shall have the right to petition the Court for relief within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice of the cure.

**11.6 Enforcement.** Only if this Settlement is finally approved by the Court and becomes Final, this Agreement may be pleaded as a full and complete defense to any action, suit, or other proceeding that has been or may be instituted, prosecuted or attempted against the Released Parties in such capacity with respect to any of the Released Claims, and may be filed, offered, received into evidence, and otherwise used for such defense. This Agreement may also be used in connection with the Parties' application for approval or enforcement of this Agreement and all proceedings incident to this Agreement, including requests for attorneys' fees, costs, disbursements and compensation to the Classes, and any disputes arising from this Agreement.

**11.7 Authorization to Enter Agreement.** The undersigned representatives of Conagra represent that they are fully authorized to enter into and execute this Agreement on behalf of Conagra. Class Counsel represent that they are fully authorized to enter into and execute this Agreement on behalf of the Class Representatives and Class Members, subject to approval by the Court pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

**11.8 No Party Is the Drafter.** None of the Parties to this Agreement shall be considered the drafter of this Agreement or any provision thereof for the purpose of any statute, case law or rule of construction that would or might cause any provision to be construed against the drafter.

**11.9 Choice of Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of California without regard to its choice of law or conflict of laws principles. The Court shall maintain continuing jurisdiction over this matter in any proceeding to interpret, enforce, modify, or set aside the terms of this Agreement.

**11.10 Jurisdiction and Dispute Resolution.** Pursuant to the Final Approval Order, the Court shall retain continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the Parties and their counsel, the Settlement Administrator, the Settlement Fund (including any trustee or other administrator or agent of the Settlement Fund, as applicable), and all Class Members with respect to the terms of this Agreement, the proper provision of all benefits thereunder, and the implementation and enforcement of its terms, conditions, and obligations. The terms of this Agreement shall be incorporated into the Final Approval Order of the Court, which shall allow that Final Approval Order to serve as an enforceable injunction by the Court for purposes of the Court's continuing jurisdiction related to this Agreement.

**11.11** The Court also shall retain exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the Fee and Expense Award.

**11.12 Administrative Procedures.** The Settlement Administrator may create administrative procedures, supplementary to (and not inconsistent with) those specified herein that provide further specific details about how the Settlement is to be administered, and/or other aspects of the Settlement, including, but not limited to, procedures regarding submission of documents or procedures regarding execution and signature of documents; provided, however, that such procedures comply, or otherwise are not in conflict, with the terms of this Agreement, and are agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court.

**11.13 Amendment or Waiver.** This Agreement shall not be modified in any respect except by a writing executed by all Parties to this Agreement or their successors-in-interest. The waiver of any rights conferred by this Agreement shall be effective only if made in writing by the waiving Party. The waiver by any Party

of any breach of this Agreement shall not be deemed or construed as a waiver of any other breach, whether prior to, subsequent to, or contemporaneous with this Agreement.

**11.14 Execution in Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts. Facsimile or PDF signatures shall be valid signatures as of the date thereof.

**11.15 Integrated Agreement.** This Agreement, including its exhibits, contains an entire, complete, and integrated statement of the terms agreed to by and between the Parties, and supersedes all prior proposals, negotiations, agreements, and understandings relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties to this Agreement, by and through their fully authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement as of July \_\_\_, 2022.

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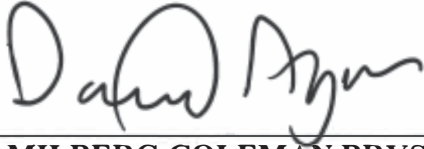
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*Appointed Class Counsel*

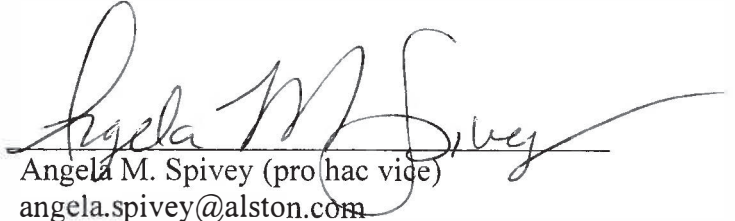
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Class Counsel

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties to this Agreement, by and through their fully  
authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement as of <sup>September</sup>~~July 30~~ 2022.



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*Appointed Class Counsel*

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Class Counsel

# EXHIBIT A

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
WESTERN DIVISION

IN RE CONAGRA FOODS, INC.

Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx)

MDL No. 2291

CLASS ACTION

**[PROPOSED] ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE TO CLASS MEMBERS**

In this Action,<sup>1</sup> Class Representatives, in their individual capacities and on behalf of all others similarly situated (the “Classes”), assert claims against Defendant Conagra Brands, Inc. Defendant has denied each of the claims asserted against it in this Action and denies any and all liability. Class Representatives maintain that the claims have merit. The Court previously certified damages classes under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, and Texas.

This Court has now been presented with a Motion for Preliminary Approval of

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<sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Definitions section of the Settlement Agreement.



1 the Settlement, Approval of the Form and Manner of Notice, Approval to Notice the  
2 Classes, and Setting Final Settlement Schedule and Date for Final Approval on  
3 September 30, 2022, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1). The Settlement Agreement  
4 was negotiated and consented to on behalf of the Parties, and it would resolve the  
5 claims against Defendant arising out of the Action. Notice of the proposed settlement  
6 will be served on the appropriate federal and state officials pursuant to the Class  
7 Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715.

8 Having considered the terms of the Settlement Agreement in light of the issues  
9 presented by the pleadings, the record in this case, the complexity of the proceedings,  
10 and the absence of any evidence of collusion between Class Representatives and  
11 Defendant, and being preliminarily satisfied that the Settlement Agreement is fair,  
12 reasonable, and consistent with applicable laws; and being satisfied that the proposed  
13 Notice Plan is adequate and sufficiently informative as to the terms and effect of the  
14 proposed settlement, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

15 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action pursuant  
16 to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d). This Court also has jurisdiction over all Parties to the Action,  
17 including all members of the Classes, as defined below.

18 2. This Order is justified by the Parties' showing that the Court will likely  
19 be able to approve the proposed settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate under  
20 Rule 23(e)(2), subject to further consideration at the Fairness Hearing. Class  
21 Representatives and Defendant are authorized and directed to take all actions that may  
22 be required prior to final approval by this Court of the proposed settlement and  
23 compromises set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

24 3. By the Court's Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs'  
25 Amended Motion for Class Certification [ECF No. 545], eleven statewide classes  
26 were certified under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) to pursue the following claims:

27 a. California: (1) violations of the California Unfair Competition  
28 Law, California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* ("UCL"), California

1 Consumer Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §§ 1750, *et seq.* (“CLRA”),  
2 and California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.* (“FAL”); and (2)  
3 breach of express warranty (California Commercial Code § 2313);

4 b. Colorado: (1) violation of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act,  
5 Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 6-1-101, *et seq.* (“CCPA”); (2) breach of express  
6 warranty (Colorado Revised Statutes § 4-2-313); and (3) breach of implied warranty  
7 (Colorado Revised Statutes § 4-2-314);

8 c. Florida: violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade  
9 Practices Act, Florida Statutes Annotated §§ 501.201, *et seq.* (“FDUTPA”);

10 d. Illinois: (1) violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and  
11 Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Illinois Compiled States §§ 505/1, *et seq.*  
12 (“ICFA”) and (2) unjust enrichment;

13 e. Indiana: (1) unjust enrichment and (2) breach of implied warranty  
14 (Indiana Code § 26-1-2-314);

15 f. Nebraska: (1) unjust enrichment and (2) breach of implied  
16 warranty (Nebraska Revised Statutes § 2-314);

17 g. New York: (1) violation of the New York Consumer Protection  
18 Act, New York General Business Law §§ 349, *et seq.* (“GBL”); and (2) breach of  
19 express warranty (N.Y. U.C.C. Law § 2-313);

20 h. Ohio: violation of the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act, Ohio  
21 Revised Code §§ 1345.01, *et seq.* (“OCSPA”);

22 i. Oregon: (1) violation of the Oregon Unfair Trade Practices Act,  
23 Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.605, *et seq.* (“OUTPA”); and (2) unjust enrichment;

24 j. South Dakota: (1) violation of the South Dakota Deceptive Trade  
25 Practices and Consumer Protection Law, South Dakota Codified Laws §§ 37-24-1, *et*  
26 *seq.* (“SDDTPL”); and (2) unjust enrichment;

27 k. Texas: violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices –  
28 Consumer Protection Act, Texas Business & Commerce Code §§ 17.41, *et seq.*

1 (“TDTPA”).

2       4.     The following Classes certified under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), which  
3 were limited by the applicable statute of limitations periods established by the laws  
4 of the eleven states, will be notified of this proposed settlement and their rights under  
5 it:

6             a.     California Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
7 California and purchased Wesson Oil Products in California, for personal, non-  
8 commercial use, between June 28, 2007 and July 1, 2017 (“California Class Period”);

9             b.     Colorado Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
10 Colorado and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Colorado, for personal, non-  
11 commercial use, between January 12, 2009 and July 1, 2017 (“Colorado Class  
12 Period”);

13            c.     Florida Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
14 Florida and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Florida, for personal, non-commercial  
15 use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“Florida Class Period”);

16            d.     Illinois Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
17 Illinois and Purchased Wesson Oil Products in Illinois, for personal, non-commercial  
18 use, between January 12, 2007 and July 1, 2017 (“Illinois Class Period”);

19            e.     Indiana Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
20 Indiana and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Indiana, for personal, non-commercial  
21 use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“Indiana Class Period”);

22            f.     Nebraska Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
23 Nebraska and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Nebraska, for personal, non-  
24 commercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“Nebraska Class  
25 Period”);

26            g.     New York Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
27 New York and purchased Wesson Oil Products in New York, for personal, non-  
28 commercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“New York Class

1 Period”);

2 h. Ohio Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Ohio  
3 and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Ohio, for personal, non-commercial use,  
4 between January 12, 2010 and July 1, 2017 (“Ohio Class Period”);

5 i. Oregon Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of  
6 Oregon and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Oregon, for personal, non-commercial  
7 use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“Oregon Class Period”);

8 j. South Dakota Class: all natural persons who resided in the State  
9 of South Dakota and purchased Wesson Oil Products in South Dakota, for personal,  
10 non-commercial use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“South Dakota  
11 Class Period”); and

12 k. Texas Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Texas  
13 and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Texas, for personal, non-commercial use,  
14 between January 12, 2010 and July 1, 2017 (“Texas Class Period”).

15 5. Excluded from the Classes are (a) governmental entities; (b) Conagra,  
16 and its affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, current and former officers, directors,  
17 agents, and representatives; (c) the members of the Court and its staff; and (d) Opt-  
18 Outs.

19 6. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court  
20 appoints the following persons as Class Representatives:

- 21 a. Robert Briseño and Michele Andrade for the California Class;
- 22 b. Jill Crouch for the Colorado Class;
- 23 c. Julie Palmer for the Florida Class;
- 24 d. Pauline Michael for the Illinois Class;
- 25 e. Cheri Shafstall for the Indiana Class;
- 26 f. Dee Hooper-Kercheval for the Nebraska Class;
- 27 g. Kelly McFadden and Necla Musat for the New York Class;
- 28 h. Maureen Towey for the Ohio Class;

- i. Erika Heins for the Oregon Class;
- j. Rona Johnston for the South Dakota Class; and
- k. Anita Willman for the Texas Class.

7. Having considered the factors set forth in Rule 23(g)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court appoints Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman PLLC, Tadler Law LLP, and DiCello Levitt LLC as Class Counsel.

8. **Schedule and Deadlines.** The Court hereby approves the following schedule:

ACTION	TIMING
First Publication of Class Notice	10 days after issuance of the Order Directing Notice
Settlement Website Established	One day before First Publication of Class Notice
Opt-Out Deadline	114 days after First Publication of Class Notice good
Claims Deadline	175 days after First Publication of Class Notice
Motion for Final Approval and Expense Application Deadline	2 weeks before Objection Filing Deadline good
Supplemental Filing in Support of Final Approval Deadline	30 days after Claims Deadline
Objection Filing Deadline	114 days after First Publication of Class Notice good
Request to Appear at Hearing Filing Deadline	114 days after First Publication of Class Notice
Objection Response Deadline	2 weeks after Objection Filing Deadline
Final Approval Hearing	To be set by the Court, on or after 165 days after First Publication of Class Notice
Gross Settlement Proceeds Paid into Escrow Account	20 days after Final Effective Date

9. A Fairness Hearing shall be held at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. on \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_, for the purpose of determining whether the proposed settlement and compromise set forth in the Settlement Agreement shall be approved finally by the

1 Court and whether final judgment dismissing the Action with respect to Defendant is  
2 appropriate. This hearing will be held at the United States District Court for the  
3 Central District of California, 411 West Fourth Street, Courtroom 9B, Santa Ana,  
4 California 92701. At the Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider and determine:

5 a. whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate  
6 to Class Members and should be approved by the Court;

7 b. whether the Classes satisfy the applicable prerequisites for class  
8 action treatment under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3) for  
9 purposes of the proposed settlement;

10 c. whether final judgment should be entered, dismissing the Action  
11 as to Defendant, on the merits and with prejudice, and to determine whether the  
12 release by Class Members of the Released Claims, as set forth in the Settlement  
13 Agreement, should be provided;

14 d. whether the Court should approve Class Counsel's application for  
15 an award expenses and costs;

16 e. whether the Court should approve any motion for service awards  
17 for the Class Representatives; and

18 f. such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

19 10. JND Legal Administration is appointed as the Settlement Administrator  
20 and the Notice Plan set forth in the Declaration of Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden,  
21 attached as Exhibit A-4 to the Settlement Agreement, is approved.

22 11. The Publication Notice attached as Exhibit A-2 to the Settlement  
23 Agreement and the Posted Notice attached as Exhibit A-3 to the Settlement  
24 Agreement are approved. Dissemination of the Class Notice as set forth in the Notice  
25 Plan satisfies the requirements of due process, Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
26 Procedure, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, and any other  
27 applicable laws, and constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances  
28 and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The

1 Publication Notice and Posted Notice will be published in accordance with the terms  
2 of the Notice Plan set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Non-substantive changes  
3 may be made to the Publication Notice and Posted Notice by agreement of Class  
4 Representatives and Defendant without further order of this Court.

5 12. No later than one day before First Publication of Class Notice, the  
6 Settlement Administrator shall establish and maintain a toll-free number and the  
7 Settlement Website, on which relevant pleadings, settlement documents, any  
8 applicable deadlines, and the Posted Notice shall be posted in order to provide  
9 information to the Classes of the proposed Settlement.

10 13. The Settlement Administrator shall cause the Publication Notice to be  
11 published as provided in the Notice Plan.

12 14. Fourteen (14) days in advance of the Objection Date, Class Counsel shall  
13 file their Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, and their application for  
14 attorneys' expenses and service awards to Class Representatives. Defendant shall file  
15 any response to any motions filed under this paragraph within 14 days.

16 15. If the Settlement Agreement is not approved by the Court substantially  
17 in accordance with its terms, or does not become subject to a Final Approval Order  
18 following such approval, or the Final Effective Dates does not occur, then the Action,  
19 for all purposes, shall revert to its status as of the date before the execution of the  
20 Settlement Agreement.

21 16. In order to be entitled to participate in the Gross Settlement Proceeds,  
22 each Class Member who did not submit a claim under the prior Settlement<sup>2</sup> shall take  
23 the following actions and be subject to the following conditions:

24 a. A properly executed Claim Form, substantially in the form  
25 \_\_\_\_\_

26 <sup>2</sup> Unless a Class Member who filed a claim under the prior Settlement excludes themselves  
27 from the new Settlement, they need not submit a new claim form to participate in the Gross  
28 Settlement Proceeds. In other words, their former claim submission will count toward this new  
Settlement without need for any further action, unless they would like to file a new Claim Form.



1 attached as Exhibit A-1 to the Settlement Agreement, must be submitted to the  
2 Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or before the Claims Deadline. Such  
3 deadline may be further extended by Court Order. Each Claim Form shall be deemed  
4 to have been submitted when postmarked (if properly addressed and mailed by first  
5 class mail, postage prepaid) provided it is actually received by the Settlement  
6 Administrator before payment of the Gross Settlement Proceeds. Any Claim Form  
7 submitted in any other manner shall be deemed to have been submitted when it was  
8 actually received by the Settlement Administrator.

9           b.     The Claim Form submitted by each Class Member must satisfy  
10 the following conditions: (i) it must be properly completed, signed and submitted in  
11 a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding subparagraph; (ii)  
12 where required, it must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation for  
13 residency and the transactions reported; and (iii) it must be complete and contain no  
14 material deletions or modifications and must be submitted under penalty of perjury.

15           c.     As part of the Claim Form, each Class Member shall submit to the  
16 jurisdiction of the Court with respect to the claim submitted and shall (subject to  
17 effectuation of the Settlement) release all Released Claims as provided in the  
18 Settlement Agreement.

19           17.    Any Class Member who does not submit a Claim Form in the manner  
20 stated in this Order shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to share in the  
21 Settlement Proceeds and shall forever be barred from sharing in the Gross Settlement  
22 Proceeds. Any such Class Member, however, in all other respects shall be subject to  
23 and bound by all of the terms of the Settlement, including the terms of the Settlement  
24 Agreement, the Final Approval Order, and the releases provided for by the Settlement  
25 Agreement and the Final Approval Order unless such Class Member has submitted a  
26 request to be excluded in the manner required by this Order.

27           **18.    Opting Out of the Settlement**

28           a.     Each Class Member may elect to opt out of the Settlement. Any



1 Class Member who wishes to opt out of the Settlement must do so, in writing, by  
2 mailing a request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator signed by the Class  
3 Member (the “Opt-Out Request”). Any such request must be sent to the Settlement  
4 Administrator and postmarked by the Opt-Out Deadline.

5 b. The Opt-Out Request must:

- 6 i. bear the handwritten signature of the Class Member seeking  
7 to opt out;
- 8 ii. set out the Class Member’s full legal name, valid mailing  
9 address, and functioning telephone number;
- 10 iii. state that the Class Member has reviewed and understood  
11 the Class Notice and chooses to be excluded from the  
12 Settlement; and
- 13 iv. provide the name of and contact information for the Class  
14 Member’s attorney, if represented.

15 c. No person or entity may opt out on behalf of another Class  
16 Member.

17 d. All requests to opt out that fail to satisfy the requirements of this  
18 paragraph, as well as any additional requirements that the Court may impose, shall be  
19 void. No class-wide, mass opt-outs, or opt-outs signed by attorneys are permitted  
20 under this Agreement.

21 e. Any Class Member who does not properly and timely submit a  
22 request to opt out as required in this Agreement shall be deemed to have waived all  
23 rights to opt out and shall be deemed a Class Member for all purposes under this  
24 Agreement.

25 **19. Objecting to the Settlement**

26 a. Any Class Member who does not timely and properly opt out of  
27 the Settlement may object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the proposed  
28 Settlement under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Each Class Member who wishes

to object must do so, in writing, by filing a written objection with the Clerk of the Court and mailing it to Class Counsel and to counsel for Conagra at the addresses set forth below:

<b>Clerk of the Court:</b>  Office of the Clerk United States District Court for the Central District of California 350 W. 1st Street, Suite 4311 Los Angeles, California 90012	<b>Class Counsel:</b>  David E. Azar Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman PLLC 280 South Beverly Drive, Suite PH Beverly Hills, California 90212
<b>Counsel for Conagra:</b>  Angela M. Spivey Alston & Bird One Atlantic Center 1201 W. Peachtree Street, NE Atlanta, Georgia 30309-1404	 Ariana J. Tadler Tadler Law LLP 22 Bayview Avenue, Suite 200 Manhasset, New York 11030  Adam J. Levitt DiCello Levitt LLC Ten North Dearborn Street, Sixth Floor Chicago, Illinois 60602

b. Any such objection must be postmarked by the Objection Deadline for filing objections and under these procedures. Any such objection must (a) attach copies in advance of any materials that the objector intends to submit to the Court or present at the Fairness Hearing; (b) be personally signed by the Class Member and, if represented by counsel, by his or her counsel; (c) include information or documents sufficient to show that the objector is a Class Member; and (d) clearly state in detail (i) the legal and factual ground(s) for the objection, (ii) the objecting Class Member's name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number, (iii) whether it applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the class, or to the entire class, (iv) if represented by counsel, such counsel's name, email address, mailing

1 address, and telephone number, and (v) any request to present argument to the Court  
2 at the Fairness Hearing.

3 c. Any objection that fails to satisfy the requirements of this  
4 paragraph, or that is not properly and timely submitted, shall be deemed void and  
5 waived unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The Court shall make the final  
6 determination if any objection complies with the requirements of this paragraph. Any  
7 Party may respond to any objection by the date as ordered by the Court.

8 20. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with  
9 the Fairness Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and  
10 the orderly presentation of any Class Member's objection to the Settlement, in  
11 accordance with the due process rights of all Class Members.

12 21. **Requests to Appear at Fairness Hearing.** Any Class Member who  
13 wishes to appear and be heard in person or by counsel at the Fairness Hearing must  
14 make such request by notifying the Court and the Parties' respective counsel at the  
15 addresses set forth above, subject to the discretion of the Court. Any such request  
16 must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and postmarked by the deadline for filing  
17 requests to appear. The request must state the name, address, and telephone number  
18 of the Class Member, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the  
19 person that shall appear on his or her behalf. Any request for appearance that fails to  
20 satisfy these requirements, or that has otherwise not been properly or timely  
21 submitted, shall be deemed ineffective and a waiver of such Class Member's rights to  
22 appear and to comment on the Settlement at the Fairness Hearing. Only the Parties,  
23 Class Members, or their counsel may request to appear and be heard at the Fairness  
24 Hearing. Persons or entities that opt out may not request to appear and be heard at the  
25 Fairness Hearing.

26 22. Attendance at the Fairness Hearing is not necessary. Class Members do  
27 not need to appear at the Fairness Hearing or take any other action to indicate their  
28 approval.

1           23. Pending the Fairness Hearing, all proceedings in the Action are stayed  
2 and, pursuant to the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, and the Anti-Injunction Act, 28  
3 U.S.C. § 2283, the prosecution of any pending or subsequently filed litigation by Class  
4 Members arising out of or relating to the Released Claims is prohibited. Proceedings  
5 in the Court arising out of and relating to the Settlement Agreement, and any other  
6 proceeding necessary to effectuate the Settlement Agreement in any other action are  
7 excepted from this stay.

8           24. The Court may adjourn the Fairness Hearing without any further notice  
9 other than an announcement of the adjournment at the scheduled time of the Fairness  
10 Hearing or at the scheduled time of any adjournment of the Fairness Hearing. The  
11 Court may consider modifications of the Settlement Agreement (with the consent of  
12 the Parties to the Settlement Agreement) without further notice to the Classes.

13           25. The Court reserves the right to approve the Settlement with or without  
14 modification and with or without further notice of any kind. The Court further  
15 reserves the right to enter its Final Approval Order approving the Settlement and  
16 dismissing the Complaint against Defendant on the merits and with prejudice  
17 regardless of whether it has approved or awarded attorneys' fees and expenses or  
18 service awards to Class Representatives.

19           26. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction over the Action to consider all  
20 further matters arising out of or connected with the proposed settlement.

21  
22           SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_

23  
24  
25  
26           \_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Cormac J. Carney  
United States District Court Judge

# EXHIBIT A-1

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)

<b>I. CLAIM FORM INSTRUCTIONS</b>		
<p><i>Your claim must be either submitted online or postmarked and mailed by:</i> <b>Month x, 202x</b></p>	<p>Wesson Oil Settlement c/o JND Legal Administration P.O. Box 91249 Seattle, WA 98111-9349 Website: <a href="http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com">www.wessonoilsettlement.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESSON OIL (AGR)</b></p>

You are eligible to submit a Claim Form if you resided in any of these eleven States\* and purchased Wesson brand cooking oils, including Wesson Vegetable Oil, Wesson Canola Oil, Wesson Corn Oil, and Wesson Best Blend (“Wesson Oil Products”), for your own personal, non-commercial use in that state during the applicable Class Period:

State	Class Period
California	June 28, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Colorado	January 12, 2009 through July 1, 2017
Florida	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Illinois	January 12, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Indiana	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Nebraska	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
New York	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Ohio	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017
Oregon	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
South Dakota	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Texas	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017

**If you filed a claim in the previous settlement, you do not need to complete this Claim Form.**

***You may also use this Claim Form if you would like to update your Claim.***

**If you have not previously filed a claim, you must submit this Claim Form to receive a payment.**

All Class Members: Class Members who timely submit a valid Claim Form may receive \$0.15 per unit of Wesson Oil Products purchased during the applicable Class Period. Recovery is limited to one claim per Household, which is defined as all persons residing at the same physical address. If the total value of all valid Claims Forms and amounts identified for direct distribution exceeds or falls short of the funds available for distribution to Class Members (after deducting the portion of Settlement Funds designated for New York and Oregon Class Members), then the amounts of the cash payments will be reduced or increased per claim (or “*pro rata*”), as necessary, to use all of the remaining funds available for distribution to Class Members. Any such *pro rata* adjustment will be calculated prior to distribution of funds (*i.e.*, will be made in a single distribution).

New York and Oregon Class Members: A portion of the Settlement Fund, specifically \$575,000, will be allocated only to members of the New York and Oregon Classes who submit valid Claim Forms or are identified for direct distribution, in proportion to the number of units purchased. The amount of additional recovery for New York

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\* If you did not reside in any of these eleven States or did not purchase Wesson Oil Products in these states during the applicable Class Period, do not submit this Claim Form. You are not a Class Member and are not affected by this Action or this Settlement.

and Oregon Class Members will be adjusted *pro rata* according to the number of valid Claim Forms and direct distributions.

You must sign and complete the entire Claim Form.

Your completed Claim Form must be either submitted online at [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com) or postmarked and mailed to the address below no later than **Month x, 202x**:

Wesson Oil Settlement  
c/o JND Legal Administration  
P.O. Box 91249  
Seattle, WA 98111-9349

**ALL CLAIMS ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION.**

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF YOUR COMPLETED CLAIM FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

### **CLAIM FORM**

*Your claim must be either  
submitted online or  
postmarked and mailed by:  
**Month x, 202x***

Wesson Oil Settlement  
c/o JND Legal Administration  
P.O. Box 91249  
Seattle, WA 98111-9349  
Website: [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com)

**WESSON OIL (AGR)**

### **SECTION A: NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Provide your name and contact information below. It is your responsibility to notify the Settlement Administrator of any changes to your contact information after the submission of your Claim Form.

**First Name**

**Last Name**

**Physical Address (Street Address, Including Apartment or Unit Number)**

**City**

**State**

**Zip Code**

**Email Address**

**Phone Number**

### **SECTION B: PURCHASE INFORMATION**

Check the box below to verify the State<sup>†</sup> where your Household resided and where you purchased Wesson Oil Products for your own personal, non-commercial use during the applicable Class Period:

	State	Class Period
<input type="checkbox"/>	California	June 28, 2007 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Colorado	January 12, 2009 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Florida	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illinois	January 12, 2007 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indiana	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nebraska	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017

<sup>†</sup> If you did not reside in any of these eleven States during the applicable Class Period, do not submit this Claim Form. You are not a Class Member and are not affected by this Action or this Settlement.



	State	Class Period
<input type="checkbox"/>	New York**	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ohio	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oregon**	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	South Dakota	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Texas	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017

**\*\* Note:** Participation in the separate fund for New York or Oregon state consumers requires verification of the city or town in which the purchases were made in either New York or Oregon. If you are a New York or Oregon purchaser, you must complete Section C of this Claim Form.

If your Household address at the time of purchase of Wesson Oil Products during the above applicable Class Period **differs from the address provided above**, provide your Household address at the time of purchase below:

**Household Address (Physical Address, Including Apartment or Unit Number)**

**City**

**State**

**Zip Code**

- ☐ Check this box to verify that only one Claim Form has been submitted per Household, which is defined as all persons residing at the same physical address.

List in the box below the total number of units of Wesson Oil Products you purchased in the state selected above during the applicable Class Period:

Units

- ☐ Check this box to verify that each of the above purchase units were for private, household use, and not purchases for commercial use or catering operations.

**SECTION C: PURCHASE INFORMATION FOR NEW YORK AND OREGON PURCHASERS ONLY**

If you did not reside in either New York or Oregon and make purchases in those states, skip this section and go to Section D.

- ☐ Check this box if you are a New York or Oregon Class Member and provide in the box below the city or town where your purchases were made:

City/Town where purchases were made during the applicable Class Period:	State (NY or OR)

**SECTION D: CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information provided in this Claim Form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand the Settlement Administrator may contact me to request further verification of the information provided in this Claim Form.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# EXHIBIT A-2

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)

The Publication Notice in the Exhibit that follows is comprised of (1) summary notice and (2) email notice.

## **NEW SETTLEMENT**

**If you resided in California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, or Texas and purchased WESSON OIL PRODUCTS in that state, you may be eligible to receive a payment from a \$3 million class action settlement**

*Para una notificación en español, visite [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com).*

A newly proposed Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit (*In re ConAgra Foods, Inc.*, C.D. Cal., Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx), MDL No. 2291). This new Settlement replaces the previous settlement that was appealed and reversed by the Ninth Circuit. The Court authorized this notice and will decide whether to approve the newly proposed Settlement.

### **WHO IS AFFECTED?**

You are a Class Member only if you resided in any of these eleven States and purchased Wesson brand cooking oils, including Wesson Vegetable Oil, Wesson Canola Oil, Wesson Corn Oil, and Wesson Best Blend (“Wesson Oil Products”), for your own personal, non-commercial use in that state during the applicable Class Period:

State	Class Period
California	June 28, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Colorado	January 12, 2009 through July 1, 2017
Florida	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Illinois	January 12, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Indiana	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Nebraska	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
New York	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Ohio	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017
Oregon	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
South Dakota	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Texas	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017

### **WHAT’S THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT?**

The lawsuit alleges that Defendant Conagra violated certain laws in the marketing, advertising, and sale of Wesson Oil Products made from Genetically Modified Ingredients (GMOs) as “Natural.” Conagra denies any and all wrongdoing of any kind whatsoever and has asserted various defenses that it believes are meritorious.

### **WHAT CAN YOU GET FROM THE SETTLEMENT?**

A \$3 million Settlement Fund will be used to pay Class Member payments, expenses for litigating the case since 2011, administrative costs, service awards, and any other costs or expenses. Class Members who timely submit a valid Claim Form may receive \$0.15 per unit of Wesson Oil

Products purchased during the applicable Class Period, subject to an up or down adjustment based upon the number of Claims filed. \$575,000 of the Settlement Fund will be allocated only to New York and Oregon Class Members who submit valid claims. Go to [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com) to learn more.

### **HOW DO YOU GET A PAYMENT?**

If you filed a claim in the previous settlement, you do not need to do anything. If you have not previously filed a claim, go to [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com) and file or download a Claim Form. All Claim Forms must be either submitted online or postmarked and mailed by **Month x, 202x**. Only one Claim Form can be submitted per Household.

### **WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?**

If you are a Class Member and you do nothing or file a Claim Form, you will be bound by the Court's judgments. If you want to opt out of the Settlement, you must submit an Opt-Out Request either online or postmarked and mailed by **Month x, 202x**. Any Class Member who does not opt out of the Settlement may object to the Settlement by filing a written objection by **Month x, 202x**. For details on how to opt out or object, go to [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com).

The Court will hold a hearing at the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 411 West Fourth Street, Courtroom 9B, Santa Ana, California 92701, on Month x, 202x at x:xx x.m. PT, to consider whether to approve the Settlement, an award for expenses, and service awards up to (a) \$3,000 each for the six Class Representatives who were deposed and (b) \$1,000 each for the seven Class Representatives who were not deposed. The Court appointed DiCello Levitt LLC, Tadler Law LLP, and Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman LLP to represent the Class as Class Counsel. You or your attorney may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense, but you do not have to.

### **HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Visit [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com); call toll-free 1-833-291-1651; or write: Wesson Oil Settlement, c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91249, Seattle, WA 98111-9349.

From: Wesson Oil Settlement Administrator

To: [Class Member email address]

Subject: New Wesson Oil Settlement

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**Court Authorized Legal Notice**

**You previously filed a claim in the WESSON OIL PRODUCTS Settlement and may receive benefits from a newly-proposed Settlement**

A newly proposed Settlement has been reached in the class action lawsuit alleging that Defendant Conagra violated certain laws in the marketing, advertising, and sale of Wesson Oil Products made from Genetically Modified Ingredients (GMOs) as "Natural" (*In re ConAgra Foods, Inc.*, C.D. Cal., Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx), MDL No. 2291). This new Settlement replaces the previous settlement that was appealed and reversed by the Ninth Circuit.

Unless you choose to opt out of the new Settlement, the claim you filed in the previous settlement will be applied to the new Settlement. If you would like to update your claim, you may choose to file a new Claim Form.

**What can I get from the new Settlement?**

A \$3 million Settlement Fund will be used to pay Class Member benefits, an attorney fee and expense award, administrative costs, service awards, and any other costs or expenses. Class Members who submit a valid Claim Form may receive \$0.15 per unit of Wesson Oil Products purchased during the applicable Class Period, which will be adjusted up or down depending on number of claims filed. \$575,000 of the Settlement Fund will be allocated only to New York and Oregon Class Members who submit valid claims. Go to [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com) to learn more.

**What are my options?**

- **Get a payment:** Unless you choose to opt out of the Settlement, the Claim Form you filed in the previous settlement will be used to determine your payment in the new Settlement. You will be bound by the Court's judgments and give up your right to ever sue the Defendant about the legal claims in this case.
- **Opt Out:** If you want to remove your claim and keep your right to sue the Defendant about the legal claims in this case, you must submit an Opt-Out Request either online or postmarked and mailed by **Month x, 202x**.
- **Object:** If you do not opt out of the Settlement, you may tell the Court what you do not like about the Settlement by **Month x, 202x**.

For details on how to opt out or object, go to [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com).

The Court will hold a hearing at the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 411 West Fourth Street, Courtroom 9B, Santa Ana, California 92701 on **Month x, 202x at x:xx x.m.** Pacific Time, to consider whether to approve the Settlement, an award for expenses, and service awards up to (a) \$3,000 each for the six Class Representatives who were deposed and (b) \$1,000 each for the seven who were not deposed. The Court appointed DiCello Levitt LLC, Tadler Law LLP, and Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman LLP to represent the Class as Class Counsel, who will not be seeking attorneys' fees under the newly-proposed Settlement. You or your attorney may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense, but you do not have to.

**How do I get more information?**

Visit [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com); Call toll-free 1-833-291-1651; or Write to Wesson Oil Settlement, c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91249, Seattle, WA 98111-9349.

To unsubscribe from this list, please click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)



# EXHIBIT A-3

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)

## **NEW SETTLEMENT**

**If you resided in California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, or Texas and purchased WESSON OIL PRODUCTS in that state, you may be eligible to receive a payment from a \$3 million class action settlement**

*A federal court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act. Please read this Notice carefully.*

- A newly proposed Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit (*In re ConAgra Foods, Inc.*, C.D. Cal., Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx), MDL No. 2291). This new Settlement replaces the previous settlement that was appealed and reversed by the Ninth Circuit.
- The lawsuit alleges that Defendant Conagra violated certain laws in the marketing, advertising, and sale of Wesson brand cooking oils, including Wesson Vegetable Oil, Wesson Canola Oil, Wesson Corn Oil, and Wesson Best Blend (“Wesson Oil Products”), made from Genetically Modified Ingredients (“GMOs”) as “Natural.” Conagra denies any and all wrongdoing of any kind whatsoever and has asserted various defenses that it believes are meritorious.
- If you resided in any of these eleven States and purchased Wesson Oil Products for your own personal, non-commercial use in that state during the applicable Class Period, you may be eligible to participate in the proposed Settlement, if it is finally approved:

STATE	CLASS PERIOD
California	June 28, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Colorado	January 12, 2009 through July 1, 2017
Florida	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Illinois	January 12, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Indiana	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Nebraska	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
New York	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Ohio	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017
Oregon	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
South Dakota	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Texas	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017

- If you did not reside in any of these eleven States or did not purchase Wesson Oil Products in these states during the applicable Class Period, you are not a Class Member and are not affected by this Action or this Settlement.
- The Settlement will provide payments to those who qualify. Class Members must submit a timely and valid Claim Form to be eligible for a payment from the Settlement.

<b>YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT</b>		
<b><u>ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>EXPLANATION</u></b>	<b><u>DUE DATE</u></b>
<b>SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM</b> (If you filed a claim in the previous settlement, you do not need to file another)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get a payment from the Settlement</li> <li>• Give up rights to ever sue the Defendant about the legal claims in this case</li> </ul>	Month x, 202x
<b>EXCLUDE YOURSELF (“OPT OUT”)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove yourself from the Class</li> <li>• Get no payment from the Settlement</li> <li>• Keep your right to be a part of another lawsuit against the Defendant about the legal claims in this case</li> </ul>	Month x, 202x
<b>OBJECT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell the Court why you do not like the Settlement</li> </ul>	Month x, 202x
<b>ATTEND A HEARING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You or your attorney may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Fairness Hearing about why you do or do not support the proposed Settlement or any of its provisions. The Fairness Hearing is on Month x, 202x at x:xx x.m., Pacific</li> </ul>	File Notice of Appearance by: Month x, 202x
<b>DO NOTHING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get no payment</li> <li>• Give up rights to ever sue the Defendant about the legal claims in this case</li> </ul>	

- These rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in this Notice. The deadlines may be moved, canceled, or otherwise modified, so please check the Settlement Website, [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com), regularly for updates and further details.
- The Court in charge of this case still has to decide whether to approve the Settlement. Payments will be made if the Court approves the Settlement and after any appeals are resolved. Please be patient.

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## BASIC INFORMATION

### 1. Why is there a notice?

You have a right to know about a newly proposed Settlement in this class action lawsuit, and about your options, before the Court decides whether to approve the new Settlement. This new Settlement replace the previous settlement that was appealed and reversed by the Ninth Circuit.

The Court in charge of this case is the United States District Court for Central District of California (the “Court”), and the case is called *In re ConAgra Foods, Inc.*, Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx), MDL No. 2291. This case is assigned to United States District Judge Cormac J. Carney. The individuals who sued are called the Class Representatives, and the company they sued, Conagra Brands, Inc. (formerly ConAgra Foods, Inc.) (“Conagra”), is called the Defendant.

### 2. What is this lawsuit about?

The lawsuit alleges that Conagra violated certain laws in the marketing, advertising, and sale of Wesson Oil Products made from Genetically Modified Ingredients (“GMOs”) as “Natural.”

The Defendant denies any and all wrongdoing of any kind whatsoever and has asserted various defenses that it believes are meritorious.

### 3. Why is this a class action?

In a class action, one or more people called class representatives (in this case Robert Briseño and Michele Andrade for the California Class; Jill Crouch for the Colorado Class; Julie Palmer for the Florida Class; Pauline Michael for the Illinois Class; Cheri Shafstall for the Indiana Class; Dee Hooper-Kercheval for the Nebraska Class; Kelly McFadden and Necla Musat for the New York Class; Maureen Towey for the Ohio Class; Erika Heins for the Oregon Class; Rona Johnston for the South Dakota Class; and Anita Willman for the Texas Class), sue on behalf of people who have similar claims. All these people are a class or class members. Bringing a case, such as this one, as a class action allows adjudication of many similar claims of persons and entities that might be economically too small to bring in individual actions. One court resolves the issues for all class members, except for those who exclude themselves (opt out) from the class.

### 4. Why is there a Settlement?

The Defendant denies that it did anything wrong. Instead, both sides, with the assistance of United States Magistrate Judge Douglas F. McCormick of the United States District Court for Central District of California acting as a mediator, have agreed to the Settlement. Both sides want to avoid the cost of further litigation. The Court has not decided in favor of the Class Representatives or the Defendant. The Class Representatives and their attorneys think the Settlement is best for the Classes.

## WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE SETTLEMENT?

### 5. How do I know if I am part of the Settlement?

The Classes consist of all natural persons who resided in one of the following eleven States and purchased Wesson Oil Products in that State, for their own personal, non-commercial use during the following time periods:

STATE	CLASS PERIOD
California	June 28, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Colorado	January 12, 2009 through July 1, 2017
Florida	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Illinois	January 12, 2007 through July 1, 2017
Indiana	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Nebraska	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
New York	January 12, 2008 through July 1, 2017
Ohio	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017
Oregon	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
South Dakota	January 12, 2006 through July 1, 2017
Texas	January 12, 2010 through July 1, 2017

Excluded from the Classes are: (a) governmental entities; (b) Conagra, and its affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, current and former officers, directors, agents, and representatives; (c) the members of the Court and its staff; and (d) opt outs.

If you did not reside in any of these eleven States during these time periods or did not purchase Wesson Oil Products in these states during the applicable Class Period, then you are not a Class Member and are not affected by this Action or this Settlement.

#### **6. Which Wesson Oil Products are included in the Settlement?**

“Wesson Oil Products” means Wesson brand cooking oils, including Wesson Vegetable Oil, Wesson Canola Oil, Wesson Corn Oil, and Wesson Best Blend, all of which were marketed, advertised, and sold as “Natural” during the applicable Class Periods.

#### **7. What if I am still not sure if I am included in the Settlement?**

If you are not sure whether you are a Class Member, or have any other questions about the Settlement, visit the Settlement Website, [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com), or call the Settlement Administrator toll-free at 1-833-291-1651.

### **SETTLEMENT BENEFITS – WHAT CLASS MEMBERS GET**

#### **8. What does the Settlement provide?**

The Settlement provides monetary damages to all Class Members. Specifically, Conagra has agreed to pay \$3,000,000 into a Settlement Fund to be used to pay Class Member payments, expenses, administrative costs, service awards to the Class Representatives, and any other costs and expenses related to the Settlement. Class Counsel are not seeking to be paid their attorneys’ fees.

## 9. What can I get from the Settlement?

### ALL CLASS MEMBERS

Class Members who timely submit a valid Claim Form may receive \$0.15 per unit of Wesson Oil Products purchased during the applicable Class Period. Recovery is limited to one claim per Household, which is defined as all persons residing at the same physical address. If the total value of all valid Claims Forms and amounts identified for direct distribution exceeds or falls short of the funds available for distribution to Class Members (after deducting the portion of Settlement Funds designated for New York and Oregon Class Members), then the amounts of the cash payments will be reduced or increased per Claim filed (or “*pro rata*”), as necessary, to use all of the remaining funds available for distribution to Class Members. Any such *pro rata* adjustment will be calculated prior to distribution of funds (*i.e.*, will be made in a single distribution).

### NEW YORK AND OREGON CLASS MEMBERS

A portion of the Settlement Fund, specifically \$575,000, will be allocated only to members of the New York and Oregon Classes who submit valid Claim Forms or are identified for direct distribution, in proportion to the number of units purchased. The amount of additional recovery for New York and Oregon Class Members will be adjusted *pro rata* according to the number of valid Claim Forms and direct distributions.

## HOW TO GET A PAYMENT

## 10. How can I get a payment?

If you filed a claim in the previous settlement, you do not need to do anything to receive a payment. If you have not previously filed a claim, or would like to update your claim, go to [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com) and file or download a Claim Form. You can also contact the Settlement Administrator by mail or email and request that a Claim Form be sent to you:

- **By Mail:** Wesson Oil Settlement, c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91249, Seattle, WA 98111-9349.
- **By Email:** [info@wessonoilsettlement.com](mailto:info@wessonoilsettlement.com)

Please read the instructions carefully, complete the Claim Form, and either submit the Claim Form online at [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com) or mail it to the Settlement Administrator at Wesson Oil Settlement, c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91249, Seattle, WA 98111-9349, postmarked no later than **Month x, 202x**.

If you do not submit a Valid Claim Form by **Month x, 202x**, you will not receive a payment, but you will be bound by the Court’s judgment in this Action.

## 11. When will I get my payment?

Payments will be made to Class Members who submit valid and timely Claim Forms after the Court grants “final approval” to the Settlement and after all appeals are resolved. If the Court approves the Settlement, there may be appeals. It is always uncertain whether these appeals can be resolved and resolving them can take time. Please be patient.

## 12. What am I giving up to receive a payment or stay in the Settlement?

If you are a Class Member, unless you opt out from the Settlement, you cannot sue the Defendant, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendant about the claims released in this Settlement. It also means that all the decisions by the Court will bind you. The Released Claims and Released Parties are defined in the Settlement

Agreement and describe the legal claims that you give up if you stay in the Settlement. The Released Claims will not include any claim against the Released Parties for bodily injury allegedly suffered in connection with the purchase or use of the Wesson Oil Products. The Settlement Agreement is available at [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com).

### **EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT**

If you don't want a payment from the Settlement or you want to keep the right to sue or continue to sue the Defendant on your own about the claims released in this Settlement, then you must take steps to get out. This is called excluding yourself—or it is sometimes referred to as “opting out” of the Settlement.

#### **13. How do I get out of the Settlement?**

To exclude yourself (or “opt out”) from the Settlement, you must complete and submit the online Opt-Out form **here** by **Month x, 202x**, or mail a written request, postmarked no later than Month x, 202x, to the Settlement Administrator at the following address:

Wesson Oil Settlement  
Exclusions  
c/o JND Legal Administration  
P.O. Box 91250  
Seattle, WA 98111-9350

A written Opt-Out Request must include:

- Your handwritten signature;
- Your full legal name, valid mailing address, and functioning telephone number;
- A statement that you have reviewed and understood the Class Notice and choose to be excluded from the Settlement; and
- The name of and contact information for your attorney, if represented by an attorney.

If you ask to be excluded from the Settlement, you will not get any Settlement payment, and you cannot object to the Settlement. You will not be legally bound by anything that happens in this lawsuit, and you may be able to sue (or continue to sue) the Defendant and the other Released Parties about the claims in this lawsuit.

No person or entity may opt out on behalf of another Class Member. No class-wide, mass opt outs, or opt outs signed by attorneys are permitted.

If you don't include the required information or timely submit your request for exclusion, you will remain a Class Member and will not be able to sue the Defendant about the claims in this lawsuit.

#### **14. If I don't exclude myself, can I sue the Defendant for the same thing later?**

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any right to sue the Defendant for the claims that this Settlement resolves. If you have a pending lawsuit, speak to your lawyer in that lawsuit immediately. You must exclude yourself from this Settlement to continue your own lawsuit. If you properly exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will not be bound by any orders or judgments entered in the Action relating to the Settlement.

#### **15. If I exclude myself, can I still get a Settlement payment?**

No. You will not get any money from the Settlement if you exclude yourself. If you exclude yourself from the Settlement, do not send in a Claim Form asking for benefits.



## THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

### 16. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Yes. The Court has appointed attorneys from the law firms DiCello Levitt LLC, Tadler Law LLP, and Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman LLP to represent you and the other Class Members. The lawyers are called Class Counsel. They are experienced in handling similar class action cases. You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

### 17. How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel are not seeking their attorneys' fees; however, will be filing a motion to be paid their expenses from litigating the case since 2011, and service awards of (a) up to \$3,000 for each of the six Class Representatives whose depositions were taken by Conagra (Robert Briseño, Michele Andrade, Jill Crouch, Pauline Michael, Necla Musat, and Maureen Towey) and (b) up to \$1,000 for each of the seven Class Representatives whose depositions were not taken (Julie Palmer, Cheri Shafstall, Dee Hooper-Kercheval, Kelly McFadden, Erika Heins, Rona Johnston, and Anita Willman). The Court will determine the amount of expenses and service awards, which will be paid from the Settlement Fund.

After Class Counsel's motion for expenses is filed on or before **Month x, 202x**, it will be posted at [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com). You will have an opportunity to comment on this request.

## OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

### 18. How do I tell the Court that I do not like the Settlement?

Any Class Member who does not timely and properly opt out of the Settlement may object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the proposed Settlement under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Each Class Member who wishes to object to any term of the Settlement must do so, in writing, by either filing a written objection with the Clerk of the Court by **Month x, 202x**, or by submitting a written objection, postmarked no later than **Month x, 202x**, to the Settlement Administrator.

#### The written objection must

- Attach copies of any materials that the objector intends to submit to the Court or present at the Fairness Hearing;
- Be personally signed by the objector and, if represented by counsel, by his or her counsel;
- Include information or documents sufficient to show that the objector is a Class Member; and
- Clearly state in detail (i) the legal and factual ground(s) for the objection, (ii) the objecting Class Member's name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number, (iii) whether it applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the Class, or to the entire Class, (iv) if represented by counsel, such counsel's name, email address, mailing address, and telephone number, and (v) any request to present argument to the Court at the Fairness Hearing.

Your objection, along with any supporting material you wish to submit, must be filed with the Court, or submitted by mail with the Settlement Administrator by **Month x, 202x** at the following addresses:

<b><u>Clerk of the Court</u></b> Office of the Clerk United States District Court for the Central District of California 411 West Fourth Street Courtroom 9B Santa Ana, CA 92701	<b><u>Settlement Administrator</u></b> Wesson Oil Settlement Objections c/o JND Legal Administration P.O. Box 91250 Seattle, WA 98111-9350  <a href="http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com">www.wessonoilsettlement.com</a>
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**19. What is the difference between objecting and excluding?**

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you don't like something about the Settlement. You can object to the Settlement only if you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement. Excluding yourself from the Settlement is telling the Court that you don't want to be part of the Settlement. If you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you have no basis to object to the Settlement because it no longer affects you.

**THE COURT'S FAIRNESS HEARING**

**20. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?**

The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing on **Month x, 202x at x:xx x.m.**, Pacific, at the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 411 West Fourth Street, Courtroom B, Santa Ana, California 92701.

At the Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court will also consider how much to pay Class Counsel and the Class Representatives. If there are objections, the Court will consider them at this time. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. We do not know how long these decisions will take.

**21. Do I have to come to the hearing?**

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions that the Court may have, but you may come to the hearing at your own expense. If you submit an objection, you don't have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you filed and mailed your written objection on time to the proper addresses, the Court will consider it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend the hearing, but it's not necessary.

**22. May I speak at the hearing?**

Yes. You may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Fairness Hearing. To do so, you must send a letter saying that it is your "Notice of Intent to Appear." Your request must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and the Parties' through Settlement Administrator (*see* Question 18 for addresses) postmarked no later than **Month x, 202x**.

Any such request must state the name, address, and telephone number of the Class Member, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the person that will appear on his or her behalf. Any request for appearance that fails to satisfy these requirements, or that has otherwise not been properly or timely submitted, will be deemed ineffective and a waiver of such Class Member's rights to appear and to comment on the Settlement at the Fairness Hearing. Only the Parties, Class Members, or their counsel may request to appear and be heard at the Fairness Hearing. Persons or entities that opt out may not request to appear and be heard at the Fairness Hearing.

## IF YOU DO NOTHING

### 23. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing, but filed a claim under the prior settlement, you will get a payment under the new Settlement. If you do nothing, but you did *not* file a claim under the prior settlement, you will *not* get a payment from the new Settlement. Unless you exclude yourself, you won't be able to start a lawsuit, continue with a lawsuit, or be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendant about the legal issues in this case, ever again.

## GETTING MORE INFORMATION

### 24. How do I get more information?

This Notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement, available at the Settlement Website, [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com). If you have additional questions or want to request a Claim Form, you can visit [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com) or contact the Settlement Administrator:

- **By Mail:** Wesson Oil Settlement, c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91249, Seattle, WA 98111-9349.
- **By Email:** [info@wessonoilsettlement.com](mailto:info@wessonoilsettlement.com)
- **By Phone Toll-Free:** 1-833-291-1651.

Updates will be posted at [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com), as information about the Settlement process becomes available.

You may review the various case documents at [www.wessonoilsettlement.com](http://www.wessonoilsettlement.com); by visiting (during business hours) the clerk's office at the United States District Court for the Central District of California, 411 West Fourth Street, Courtroom 9B, Santa Ana, California 92701, File: *In re ConAgra Foods, Inc, Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx)*, or by accessing the case docket through the Court's Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov>.

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS.**

Dated: Month x, 202x

By Order of the Court  
United States District Court  
Central District of California

# EXHIBIT A-4

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
WESTERN DIVISION

IN RE CONAGRA FOODS, INC.

Case No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx)

MDL No. 2291

**DECLARATION OF GINA M. INTREPIDO-  
BOWDEN REGARDING PROPOSED  
SETTLEMENT NOTICE PROGRAM**

I, GINA M. INTREPIDO-BOWDEN, declare as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. I am a Vice President at JND Legal Administration LLC (“JND”). I am a judicially recognized legal notice expert with more than 20 years of legal experience designing and implementing class action legal notice programs. I have been involved in many of the largest and most complex class action notice programs, including all aspects of notice dissemination. A comprehensive description of my experience is attached as Exhibit A.

2. I submit this Declaration, based on my personal knowledge and information provided to me by the Parties and experienced JND employees working under my supervision, to describe the proposed Notice Program and address why it is consistent with other class notice plans that courts have determined satisfy the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution, and any other applicable statute, law or rule, as well as the Federal Judicial Center (“FJC”) guidelines for best practicable due process notice.

### **BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE**

3. JND is a leading legal administration services provider with headquarters located in Seattle, Washington, and multiple offices throughout the United States. JND has extensive experience with all aspects of legal administration and has administered hundreds of class action matters. JND's class action division provides all services necessary for the effective administration of class actions including: (1) all facets of providing legal notice to potential class members, such as developing the final class member list and addresses for them, outbound mailing, email notification, and the design and implementation of media programs; (2) website design and deployment, including on-line claim filing capabilities; (3) call center and other contact support; (4) secure class member data management; (5) paper and electronic claims processing; (6) lien verification, negotiation, and resolution; (7) calculation design and programming; (8) payment disbursements through check, wire, PayPal, merchandise credits, and other means; (9) qualified settlement fund management and tax reporting; (10) banking services and reporting; and (11) all other functions related to the secure and accurate administration of class actions.

4. JND is an approved vendor for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), as well as for the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), and we have been working with the following other government agencies: the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC"), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB"), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), the Department of Justice ("DOJ") and the Department of Labor ("DOL"). We have Master Services Agreements with various law firms, corporations, and banks, which were only awarded after JND underwent rigorous reviews of our

systems, privacy policies, and procedures. JND has also been certified as SOC 2 compliant by noted accounting firm Moss Adams. Finally, JND has been recognized by various publications, including, among others, the *National Law Journal*, the *Legal Times* and the *New York Law Journal*, for excellence in class action administration.

5. The principals of JND collectively have over 80 years of experience in class action legal and administrative fields and have overseen claims processes for some of the largest legal claims administration matters in the country's history and regularly prepare and implement court-approved notice and administration campaigns throughout the United States.

6. JND was appointed the notice and claims administrator in the \$2.67 billion Blue Cross Blue Shield antitrust settlement, in which we mailed over 100 million postcard notices; sent hundreds of millions of email notices and reminders; placed notice via print, television, radio, internet, and more; received and processed more than eight million claims; and staffed the call center with more than 250 agents during the peak notice program. JND was also appointed the settlement administrator in the \$1.3 billion Equifax Data Breach Settlement, the largest class action in terms of the 18 million claims received. Email notice was sent twice to over 140 million class members, the interactive website received more than 130 million hits, and the call center was staffed with 1,500 agents at the peak of call volume.

7. Other large JND matters include a voluntary remediation program in Canada on behalf of over 30 million people; the \$1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Emissions class action settlements, the \$120 million GM Ignition class action economic settlement, where we sent notice to nearly 30 million class members; and the \$215 million USC Student Health Center Settlement on behalf of women who were sexually abused by a doctor at USC, as well as hundreds of others.

8. More importantly, this Court previously appointed JND as the settlement administrator in *this* case, and we then designed and implemented the Notice Plan that was ultimately disseminated to the Classes in connection with the Original Settlement. *See* ECF No. 654. With the benefit of that experience, JND is armed with enhanced knowledge to tailor the Proposed Notice Program to best reach the *same* Classes of individuals under the terms of the New Settlement. The Proposed Notice Program, which is explained in further detail below, has been modified accordingly to reach as many members of the Classes as practicable.

9. As a member of JND's Legal Notice Team, I research, design, develop, and implement a wide array of legal notice programs to meet the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and relevant state court rules. In addition to providing notice directly to potential class members through direct mail and email, our media campaigns, which are regularly approved by courts throughout the United States, have used a variety of media, including newspapers, press releases, magazines, trade journals, radio, television, social media and the internet depending on the circumstances and allegations of the case, the demographics of the class, and the habits of its members, as reported by various research and analytics tools. During my career, I have submitted declarations to courts throughout the country attesting to the creation and launch of various notice programs.

### **NOTICE PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

10. The objective of the Notice Program is to provide notice of the newly proposed Settlement to members of the following Settlement Classes, which are limited by the applicable statute of limitations periods established by the laws of the eleven states ("Class States"):

- a. California Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of California and purchased Wesson Oil Products in California, for personal, non-commercial use, between June 28, 2007 and July 1, 2017 ("California Class Period").



- b. Colorado Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Colorado and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Colorado, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2009 and July 1, 2017 (“Colorado Class Period”).
- c. Florida Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Florida and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Florida, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“Florida Class Period”).
- d. Illinois Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Illinois and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Illinois, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2007 and July 1, 2017 (“Illinois Class Period”).
- e. Indiana Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Indiana and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Indiana, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“Indiana Class Period”).
- f. Nebraska Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Nebraska and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Nebraska, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“Nebraska Class Period”).
- g. New York Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of New York and purchased Wesson Oil Products in New York, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2008 and July 1, 2017 (“New York Class Period”).
- h. Ohio Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Ohio and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Ohio, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2010 and July 1, 2017 (“Ohio Class Period”).
- i. Oregon Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Oregon and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Oregon, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“Oregon Class Period”).
- j. South Dakota Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of South Dakota and purchased Wesson Oil Products in South Dakota, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2006 and July 1, 2017 (“South Dakota Class Period”).
- k. Texas Class: all natural persons who resided in the State of Texas and purchased Wesson Oil Products in Texas, for personal, non-commercial use, between January 12, 2010 and July 1, 2017 (“Texas Class Period”).

11. Excluded from the Classes are: (a) governmental entities; (b) Conagra, and its affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, current and former officers, directors, agents, and representatives; (c) the members of the Court and its staff; and (d) Opt-Outs.

12. JND’s proposed Notice Program includes the following components:

- a. CAFA Notice to the appropriate state and federal officials;
- b. Email notice to Class Members who filed a claim in the previously proposed settlement;
- c. Print notice in the national edition of a leading consumer magazine (*People*);
- d. Digital notice targeted to the Class States through the leading digital network (Google Display Network – “GDN”) and two of the top social platforms (Facebook and Instagram);
- e. Newspaper placements in the *Los Angeles Daily News* to fulfill California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act (CLRA) notice requirement;
- f. An internet search effort with a top search engine site (Google);
- g. A press release distributed to news outlets nationwide;
- h. Sponsorship opportunities with TopClassActions.com and ClassAction.org;
- i. The Settlement Website on which the notice and other important documents will be posted and the Claim Form and Opt Out request may be submitted electronically;
- j. The Settlement toll-free phone number, P.O. Box, and email from which Class Members may obtain additional information and/or communicate with JND about the Settlement.

13. The print and digital notice alone is designed to reach 70% of potential Class Members.<sup>1</sup> The email notice, CLRA newspaper placements, internet search effort, press release, and sponsorship opportunities will extend the reach even further.

### **TARGET ANALYSIS**

14. JND utilizes reputable advertising media research tools when analyzing our target, selecting media and determining the effectiveness of our media plans. MRI | Simmons (MRI)<sup>2</sup> data was used to analyze demographic and media usage among adults 18 years of age or older (“Adults 18+”) in the Class States who purchased Wesson Best Blend or Wesson Vegetable Oil in the past six months (“Wesson Oil Consumers in the Class States”).<sup>3</sup> According to MRI data, the majority of Wesson Oil Consumers in the Class States are: 25 years of age or older (88.0%), homeowners (71%), less educated (69% *do not* have a bachelor’s degree or higher), White (67%), and from middle to lower income households (61% have a household income less than \$100K). Compared to the general adult population, Wesson Oil Consumers in the Class States are more likely to be: 65 years of age or older, Spanish-speakers, and Black/African American or Spanish/Hispanic/Latino descent/origin.

15. Given the Class Periods, JND considered that some Class Members may no longer reside within the Class States. As a result, some nationwide notice tactics, as discussed in more detail below, will be considered to reach Class Members who may now reside outside of the Class States.

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<sup>1</sup> Reach is the net, unduplicated percent of potential Class Members who have an opportunity to be exposed to notice at least one time over the course of the notice campaign.

<sup>2</sup> MRI is a nationally accredited research firm that provides consumer demographics, product and brand usage, and audience/exposure in all forms of advertising media. MRI is the leading producer of media and consumer research in the United States.

<sup>3</sup> MRI data included the following six states that are not part of the Class States: ID, KS, MT, ND, WA, and WY.

16. In terms of media usage, MRI data indicates that 96% of Wesson Oil Consumers in the Class States use the internet in a 30-day period, with 84% looking at or using the internet on their cellphone or smartphone. In addition, 64% visited Facebook and 37% visited Instagram. As a result, JND's proposed plan relies heavily on digital notice geographically targeted to the Class States, as well as a national print effort to extend reach beyond the Class States.

### **NOTICE PLAN DETAILS**

17. **Email Notice:** JND will send an Email Notice to approximately 76,326 Class Members who filed a claim in the previous settlement.

18. **Print Notice:** JND will place a minimum third-page notice in the national edition of *People*, a leading weekly entertainment magazine. *People* provides readership to over 34 million adults nationwide, reaching 11% of Wesson Oil Consumers in the Class States. Its readers are also 16% more likely to be Wesson Oil Consumers in the Class States, as compared to the general population. *People* extends reach among a broad demographic segment, including older Class Members who may not frequent the internet, as well as those who may no longer reside in the Class States.

19. **Digital Notice:** JND will implement a twelve-week digital notice campaign through GDN, Facebook, and Instagram. The digital effort will deliver approximately 179 million impressions to Adults 18+ in the Class States. An emphasis will be placed on adults 35 years of age or older (Adults 35+) and those from lower income households. A portion of the activity will target a look-a-like audience: that is, individuals with demographic traits similar to those who visit the Settlement Website or file a claim. Focused targeting is also included. A portion of the GDN impressions will target those with an affinity for cooking and fried cooking. The GDN effort will also include a mix of various cooking sites, such as AllRecipes.com,

FoodNetwork.com, SimplyRecipes.com, BonAppetit.com, and MyRecipes.com, as well as some Spanish language sites. Likewise, a portion of the Facebook/Instagram activity will be allocated towards those interested in cooking, cooking channels, cooking shows, cooking recipes, vegetable oil. The digital ads will directly link Class Members to the Settlement Website where they can receive more information about the settlement, as well as file an online claim or opt out.

20. **CLRA Notice:** To fulfill the CLRA notice requirement, JND will place a notice once per week, over four consecutive weeks, in the *Los Angeles Daily News*.

21. **Internet Search:** Web browsers frequently default to a search engine pages like Google, Bing, or Yahoo!, making search engines a common source to get to a specific website (*i.e.*, as opposed to typing in the desired URL in the navigation bar). As a result, JND will implement an internet search effort with Google. When purchased keywords related to the case are searched, a paid ad with a hyperlink to the Settlement Website may appear on the search engine results page. Efforts will be monitored and optimized so that ads appear above or below organic search results, generating the most click-throughs to the Settlement Website. The internet search effort enhances notice exposure nationwide and allows Class Members who may be searching about the case to readily find a direct link to the Settlement Website.

22. **Press Release:** JND will distribute a press release in English and Spanish that will be issued to approximately 15,000 English and Spanish media outlets nationwide, which will extend reach to Class Members wherever they may now reside. The press release will provide information about the Settlement and allow for additional notice exposure.

23. **Sponsorship Opportunities:** Certain class action websites are frequented for updates on class action lawsuits. These sites direct individuals to case specific websites. As a

result, we propose sponsorship opportunities with TopClassActions.com and ClassAction.org to help drive potential Class Members to the Settlement Website.

24. **Settlement Website:** JND will develop an informational, interactive, Settlement Website that will allow Class Members to obtain more information about the Settlement, including relevant pleadings, settlement documents, any applicable deadlines, the Posted Notice, and a notice in Spanish for Spanish-speaking Class Members. The Settlement Website will have an easy-to-navigate design and will be formatted to emphasize important information and deadlines.

25. The Settlement Website will be optimized for mobile visitors so that information loads quickly on mobile devices and will also be designed to maximize search engine optimization through Google and other search engines. Keywords and natural language search terms will be included in the site's metadata to maximize search engine rankings. Visitors to the Settlement Website will have the ability to submit a Claim Form or Opt-Out Request electronically.

26. **Settlement Toll-Free Number, P.O. Box, and Email:** JND will establish and maintain a 24-hour, toll-free telephone line where callers may obtain information about the Settlement. JND will also maintain a dedicated Post Office Box and email address where Class Members may send claims, opt outs, objections, and/or inquiries.

### **NOTICE REACH**

27. To calculate the reach of the Notice Program, JND used an MRI and Comscore reach platform.<sup>4</sup> According to these two reputable resources, the proposed print and digital effort

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<sup>4</sup> Comscore's multi-reach platform allows us to analyze unduplicated audiences across desktop, smartphone, and tablet devices. We can assess the efficiency and effectiveness of our proposed media plans by reducing waste and improving campaign performance across all devices.

will reach 70% of likely Class Members. This reach calculation does not include the direct notice that will be sent to prior claimants under the previously-proposed settlement, CLRA notice placements, internet search effort, press release, and sponsorships with popular class action websites, all of which will extend reach further.

### **NOTICE DESIGN AND CONTENT**

28. I have reviewed the proposed notice documents and believe they are in plain language and comply with the Rule 23's guidelines for class action notices, as well as the FJC's *Judges' Class Action Notice and Claims Process Checklist and Plain Language Guide*. The notices contain easy-to-read summaries of the settlement and instructions on how to obtain more information about the case. Courts routinely approve notices that have been written and designed in a similar manner.

### **CONCLUSION**

29. In my opinion, the Notice Program as described herein provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances; is consistent with the requirements of Rule 23 and all applicable court rules; and is consistent with other similar court-approved notice programs. The Notice Program is designed to reach at least 70% of likely Class Members via the print and digital notice effort alone and provide them with the opportunity to review a notice and the ability to easily take next steps to learn more about the Settlement.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 30, 2022, in Stone Harbor, New Jersey.



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GINA M. INTREPIDO-BOWDEN

**- EXHIBIT A -**



# GINA INTREPIDO-BOWDEN

VICE PRESIDENT



## I.

## INTRODUCTION

Gina Intrepido-Bowden is a Vice President at JND Legal Administration ("JND"). She is a court recognized legal notice expert who has been involved in the design and implementation of hundreds of legal notice programs reaching class members/claimants throughout the U.S., Canada, and the world, with notice in over 35 languages. Some notable cases in which Gina has been involved include:

- *Flaum v Doctor's Assoc., Inc.*, a \$30 million FACTA settlement
- *FTC v. Reckitt Benckiser Grp. PLC*, the \$50 million Suboxone branded drug antitrust settlement
- *In re Blue Cross Blue Shield Antitrust Litig.*, a \$2.67 billion antitrust settlement
- *In re General Motors LLC Ignition Switch Litig.*, the \$120 million GM Ignition Switch economic settlement
- *In re Home Depot, Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, a security breach impacting over 40 million consumers who made credit/debit card purchases in a Home Depot store
- *In re Monitronics Int'l, Inc.*, a \$28 million TCPA settlement
- *In re Residential Schools Litig.*, a complex Canadian class action incorporating a groundbreaking notice program to remote aboriginal persons qualified to receive benefits in the multi-billion-dollar settlement

- *In re Royal Ahold Sec. and "ERISA"*, a \$1.1 billion securities settlement involving a comprehensive international notice effort
- *In re Skelaxin (Metaxalone) Antitrust Litig.*, a prescription antitrust involving notice to both third party payor and consumer purchasers
- *In re TJX Cos., Inc. Retail Sec. Breach Litig.*, this \$200 million settlement impacted 45 million credit/debit cards in the U.S. and Canada making it the then-largest theft of consumer data
- *In re Trans Union Corp. Privacy Litig.*, a \$75 million data breach settlement involving persons with a credit history
- *Thompson v Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.*, a large race-based pricing settlement involving 25 million policyholders
- *USC Student Health Ctr. Settlement*, a \$215 million settlement providing compensation to women who were sexually assaulted, harassed and otherwise abused by Dr. George M. Tyndall
- *Williams v. Weyerhaeuser Co.*, a consumer fraud litigation involving exterior hardboard siding on homes and other structures

With more than 25 years of advertising research, planning and buying experience, Gina began her career working for one of New York's largest advertising agency media departments (BBDO), where she designed multi-million-dollar media campaigns for clients such as Gillette, GE, Dupont, and HBO. Since 2000, she has applied her media skills to the legal notification industry, working for several large legal notification firms. Gina is an accomplished author and speaker on class notice issues including effective reach, notice dissemination as well as noticing trends and innovations. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising from Penn State University, graduating *summa cum laude*.

# II.

## JUDICIAL RECOGNITION

Courts have favorably recognized Ms. Intrepido-Bowden's work as outlined by the sampling of Judicial comments below:

### 1. Judge Victoria A. Roberts

**Graham v. Univ. of Michigan**, (March 29, 2022)

No. (S.D. Ill.):

*The Court finds that the foregoing program of Class Notice and the manner of its dissemination is sufficient under the circumstances and is reasonably calculated to apprise the Settlement Class of the pendency of this Action and their right to object to the Settlement. The Court further finds that the Class Notice program is reasonable; that it constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice; and that it meets the requirements of due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.*

### 2. Honorable Michael Markman

**DC 16 v. Sutter Health**, (March 11, 2022)

No. RG15753647 (Cal. Super. Ct.):

*The Court approves and appoints JND Legal Administration ("JND") to serve as the notice provider and directs JND to carry out all duties and responsibilities of providing notice and processing requests for exclusion.*

### 3. Honorable P. Kevin Castel

**Hanks v. Lincoln Life & Annuity Co. of New York**, (February 23, 2022)

No. 16-cv-6399 PKC (S.D.N.Y.):

*The Court appoints JND Legal Administration LLC ("JND"), a competent firm, as the Settlement Administrator...The form and content of the notices, as well as the manner of dissemination described below, meet the requirements of Rule 23 and due process, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto.*

#### 4. Judge William M. Conley

**Bruzek v. Husky Oil Operations Ltd.**, (January 31, 2022)

No. 18-cv-00697 (W.D. Wis.):

*The claims administrator estimates that at least 70% of the class received notice... the court concludes that the parties' settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate under Rule 23(e).*

#### 5. Honorable Dana M. Sabraw

**In re Packaged Seafood Prods. Antitrust Litig. (DPP Class)**, (January 26, 2022)

No. 15-md-02670 (S.D. Cal.):

*The rigorous notice plan proposed by JND satisfies requirements imposed by Rule 23 and the Due Process clause of the United States Constitution. Moreover, the contents of the notice satisfactorily informs Settlement Class members of their rights under the Settlement.*

#### 6. Honorable Dana M. Sabraw

**In re Packaged Seafood Prods. Antitrust Litig. (EPP Class)**, (January 26, 2022))

No. 15-md-02670 (S.D. Cal.):

*Class Counsel retained JND, an experienced notice and claims administrator, to serve as the notice provider and settlement claims administrator. The Court approves and appoints JND as the Claims Administrator. EPPs and JND have developed an extensive and robust notice program which satisfies prevailing reach standards. JND also developed a distribution plan which includes an efficient and user-friendly claims process with an effective distribution program. The Notice is estimated to reach over 85% of potential class members via notice placements with the leading digital network (Google Display Network), the top social media site (Facebook), and a highly read consumer magazine (People)... The Court approves the notice content and plan for providing notice of the COSI Settlement to members of the Settlement Class.*

## 7. Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein

**Leonard v. John Hancock Life Ins. Co. of NY**, (January 10, 2022)

No. 18-CV-04994 (S.D.N.Y.):

*The Court appoints Gina Intrepido-Bowden of JND Legal Administration LLC, a competent firm, as the Settlement Administrator...the Court directs that notice be provided to class members through the Notices, attached as Exhibits B-C to the Declaration of Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden (the "Intrepido-Bowden Declaration"), and through the notice program described in described in Section 5 of the Agreement and Paragraphs 24-33 of the Intrepido-Bowden Declaration. The Court finds that the manner of distribution of the Notices constitutes the best practicable notice under the circumstances as well as valid, due and sufficient notice to the Class and complies fully with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the due process requirements of the United States Constitution.*

## 8. Judge Timothy J. Corrigan

**Levy v. Dolgencorp, LLC**, (December 2, 2021)

No. 20-cv-01037-TJC-MCR (M.D. Fla.):

*No Settlement Class Member has objected to the Settlement and only one Settlement Class Member requested exclusion from the Settlement through the opt-out process approved by this Court...The Notice Program was the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Notice Program provided due and adequate notice of the proceedings and of the matters set forth therein, including the proposed Settlement set forth in the Agreement, to all persons entitled to such notice. The Notice Program fully satisfied the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the United States Constitution, which include the requirement of due process.*

## 9. Honorable Nelson S. Roman

**Swetz v. GSK Consumer Health, Inc.**, (November 22, 2021)

No. 20-cv-04731 (S.D.N.Y.):

*The Notice Plan provided for notice through a nationwide press release; direct notice through electronic mail, or in the alternative, mailed, first-class postage*

prepaid for identified Settlement Class Members; notice through electronic media—such as Google Display Network and Facebook—using a digital advertising campaign with links to the dedicated Settlement Website; and a toll-free telephone number that provides Settlement Class Members detailed information and directs them to the Settlement Website. The record shows, and the Court finds, that the Notice Plan has been implemented in the manner approved by the Court in its Preliminary Approval Order.

## 10. Honorable James V. Selna

**Herrera v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**, (November 16, 2021)

No. 18-cv-00332-JVS-MRW (C.D. Cal.):

On June 8, 2021, the Court appointed JND Legal Administration (“JND”) as the Claims Administrator... JND mailed notice to approximately 2,678,266 potential Non-Statutory Subclass Members and 119,680 Statutory Subclass Members. *Id.* ¶ 5. 90% of mailings to Non-Statutory Subclass Members were deemed delivered, and 81% of mailings to Statutory Subclass Members were deemed delivered. *Id.* ¶ 9. Follow-up email notices were sent to 1,977,514 potential Non-Statutory Subclass Members and 170,333 Statutory Subclass Members, of which 91% and 89% were deemed delivered, respectively. *Id.* ¶ 12. A digital advertising campaign generated an additional 5,195,027 views. *Id.* ¶ 13...Accordingly, the Court finds that the notice to the Settlement Class was fair, adequate, and reasonable.

## 11. Judge Morrison C. England, Jr.

**Martinelli v. Johnson & Johnson**, (September 27, 2021)

No. 15-cv-01733-MCE-DB (E.D. Cal.):

The Court appoints JND, a well-qualified and experienced claims and notice administrator, as the Settlement Administrator.

## 12. Honorable Nathanael M. Cousins

**Malone v. Western Digital Corp.**, (July 21, 2021)

No. 20-cv-03584-NC (N.D. Cal.):

*The Court hereby appoints JND Legal Administration as Settlement Administrator... The Court finds that the proposed notice program meets the requirements of Due Process under the U.S. Constitution and Rule 23; and that such notice program—which includes individual direct notice to known Settlement Class Members via email, mail, and a second reminder email, a media and Internet notice program, and the establishment of a Settlement Website and Toll-Free Number—is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Court further finds that the proposed form and content of the forms of the notice are adequate and will give the Settlement Class Members sufficient information to enable them to make informed decisions as to the Settlement Class, the right to object or opt-out, and the proposed Settlement and its terms.*

## 13. Judge Vernon S. Broderick, Jr.

**In re Keurig Green Mountain Single-Serve Coffee Antitrust Litig.**, (June 7, 2021)

No. 14-md-02542 (S.D.N.Y.):

*The Notice Plan provided for notice through a nationwide press release, print notice in the national edition of People magazine, and electronic media—Google Display Network, Facebook, and LinkedIn—using a digital advertising campaign with links to a settlement website. Proof that Plaintiffs have complied with the Notice Plan has been filed with the Court. The Notice Plan met the requirements of due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23; constituted the most effective and best notice of the Agreement and fairness hearing practicable under the circumstances; and constituted due and sufficient notice for all other purposes to all other persons and entities entitled to receive notice.*

## 14. Honorable Louis L. Stanton

**Rick Nelson Co. v. Sony Music Ent.**, (May 25, 2021)

No. 18-cv-08791 (S.D.N.Y.):

*Notice of the pendency of this Action as a class action and of the proposed Settlement was given to all Class Members who could be identified with reasonable effort. The form and method of notifying the Class of the pendency of the action as a class action and of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement met the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, due process, and any other applicable law, constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constituted due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto.*

## 15. Honorable Daniel D. Domenico

**Advance Trust & Life Escrow Serv., LTA v. Sec. Life of Denver Ins. Co.**, (January 29, 2021)

No. 18-cv-01897-DDD-NYW (D. Colo.):

*The proposed form and content of the Notices meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c)(2)(B)...The court approves the retention of JND Legal Administration LLC as the Notice Administrator.*

## 16. Honorable Virginia A. Phillips

**Sonner v. Schwabe North America, Inc.**, (January 25, 2021)

No. 15-cv-01358 VAP (SPx) (C.D. Cal.):

*Following preliminary approval of the settlement by the Court, the settlement administrator provided notice to the Settlement Class through a digital media campaign. (Dkt. 203-5). The Notice explains in plain language what the case is about, what the recipient is entitled to, and the options available to the recipient in connection with this case, as well as the consequences of each option. (Id., Ex. E). During the allotted response period, the settlement administrator received no requests for exclusion and just one objection, which was later withdrawn. (Dkt. 203-1, at 11).*



Given the low number of objections and the absence of any requests for exclusion, the Class response is favorable overall. Accordingly, this factor also weighs in favor of approval.

## 17. Honorable R. Gary Klausner

**A.B. v. Regents of the Univ. of California**, (January 8, 2021)

No. 20-cv-09555-RGK-E (C.D. Cal.):

*The parties intend to notify class members through mail using UCLA's patient records. And they intend to supplement the mail notices using Google banners and Facebook ads, publications in the LA times and People magazine, and a national press release. Accordingly, the Court finds that the proposed notice and method of delivery sufficient and approves the notice.*

## 18. Judge Jesse M. Furman

**In re General Motors LLC Ignition Switch Litig., economic settlement**, (December 18, 2020)

No. 2543 (MDL) (S.D.N.Y.):

*The Court finds that the Class Notice and Class Notice Plan satisfied and continue to satisfy the applicable requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(c)(2)(b) and 23(e), and fully comply with all laws, including the Class Action Fairness Act (28 U.S.C. § 1711 et seq.), and the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution (U.S. Const., amend. V), constituting the best notice that is practicable under the circumstances of this litigation.*

## 19. Judge Vernon S. Broderick, Jr.

**In re Keurig Green Mountain Single-Serve Coffee Antitrust Litig.**, (December 16, 2020)

No. 14-md-02542 (S.D.N.Y.):

*I further appoint JND as Claims Administrator. JND's principals have more than 75 years-worth of combined class action legal administration experience, and JND has handled some of the largest recent settlement administration issues, including the Equifax Data Breach Settlement. (Doc. 1115 ¶ 5.) JND also has extensive experience in handling claims administration in the antitrust context. (Id. ¶ 6.) Accordingly, I appoint JND as Claims Administrator.*

## 20. Judge R. David Proctor

***In re Blue Cross Blue Shield Antitrust Litig.***, (November 30, 2020)

Master File No. 13-CV-20000-RDP (N.D. Ala.):

*After a competitive bidding process, Settlement Class Counsel retained JND Legal Administration LLC ("JND") to serve as Notice and Claims Administrator for the settlement. JND has a proven track record and extensive experience in large, complex matters... JND has prepared a customized Notice Plan in this case. The Notice Plan was designed to provide the best notice practicable, consistent with the latest methods and tools employed in the industry and approved by other courts...The court finds that the proposed Notice Plan is appropriate in both form and content and is due to be approved.*

## 21. Honorable Laurel Beeler

***Sidibe v. Sutter Health***, (November 5, 2020)

No. 12-cv-4854-LB (N.D. Cal.):

*Class Counsel has retained JND Legal Administration ("JND"), an experienced class notice administration firm, to administer notice to the Class. The Court appoints JND as the Class Notice Administrator.*

## 22. Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl

***Sandoval v. Merlex Stucco Inc.***, (October 30, 2020)

No. BC619322 (Cal. Super. Ct.):

*Additional Class Member class members, and because their names and addresses have not yet been confirmed, will be notified of the pendency of this settlement via the digital media campaign... the Court approves the Parties selection of JND Legal as the third-party Claims Administrator.*

## 23. Honorable Louis L. Stanton

**Rick Nelson Co. v. Sony Music Ent.**, (September 16, 2020)

No. 18-cv-08791 (S.D.N.Y.):

*The parties have designated JND Legal Administration (“JND”) as the Settlement Administrator. Having found it qualified, the Court appoints JND as the Settlement Administrator and it shall perform all the duties of the Settlement Administrator as set forth in the Stipulation...The form and content of the Notice, Publication Notice and Email Notice, and the method set forth herein of notifying the Class of the Settlement and its terms and conditions, meet the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, due process, and any other applicable law, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto.*

## 24. Honorable Jesse M. Furman

**In re General Motors LLC Ignition Switch Litig., economic settlement**, (April 27, 2020)

No. 2543 (MDL) (S.D.N.Y.):

*The Court further finds that the Class Notice informs Class Members of the Settlement in a reasonable manner under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e)(1)(B) because it fairly apprises the prospective Class Members of the terms of the proposed Settlement and of the options that are open to them in connection with the proceedings.*

*The Court therefore approves the proposed Class Notice plan, and hereby directs that such notice be disseminated to Class Members in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement and described in the Declaration of the Class Action Settlement Administrator...*

## 25. Honorable Virginia A. Phillips

**Sonner v. Schwabe North America, Inc.**, (April 7, 2020)

No. 15-cv-01358 VAP (SPx) (C.D. Cal.):

*The Court orders the appointment of JND Legal Administration to implement and administrate the dissemination of class notice and administer opt-out requests pursuant to the proposed notice dissemination plan attached as Exhibit D to the Stipulation.*

## 26. Judge Fernando M. Olguin

**Ahmed v. HSBC Bank USA, NA**, (December 30, 2019)

No. 15-cv-2057-FMO-SPx (N.D. Ill.):

*On June 21, 2019, the court granted preliminary approval of the settlement, appointed JND Legal Administration ("JND") as settlement administrator... the court finds that the class notice and the notice process fairly and adequately informed the class members of the nature of the action, the terms of the proposed settlement, the effect of the action and release of claims, the class members' right to exclude themselves from the action, and their right to object to the proposed settlement...the reaction of the class has been very positive.*

## 27. Honorable Stephen V. Wilson

**USC Student Health Ctr. Settlement**, (June 12, 2019)

No. 18-cv-04258-SVW (C.D. Cal.):

*The Court hereby designates JND Legal Administration ("JND") as Claims Administrator. The Court finds that giving Class Members notice of the Settlement is justified under Rule 23(e)(1) because, as described above, the Court will likely be able to: approve the Settlement under Rule 23(e)(2); and certify the Settlement Class for purposes of judgment. The Court finds that the proposed Notice satisfies the requirements of due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances.*

## 28. Judge J. Walton McLeod

**Boskie v. Backgroundchecks.com**, (May 17, 2019)

No. 2019CP3200824 (S.C. C.P.):

*The Court appoints JND Legal Administration as Settlement Administrator...The Court approves the notice plans for the HomeAdvisor Class and the Injunctive Relief Class as set forth in the declaration of JND Legal Administration. The Court finds the class notice fully satisfies the requirements of due process, the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice plan for the HomeAdvisor Class and Injunctive Relief Class constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances of each Class.*

## 29. Judge Kathleen M. Daily

**Podawiltz v. Swisher Int'l, Inc.**, (February 7, 2019)

No. 16CV27621 (Or. Cir. Ct.):

*The Court appoints JND Legal Administration as settlement administrator...The Court finds that the notice plan is reasonable, that it constitutes due, adequate and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice, and that it meets the requirements of due process, ORCP 32, and any other applicable laws.*

## 30. Honorable Kenneth J. Medel

**Huntzinger v. Suunto Oy**, (December 14, 2018)

No. 37-2018-27159 (CU) (BT) (CTL) (Cal. Super. Ct.):

*The Court finds that the Class Notice and the Notice Program implemented pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and Preliminary Approval Order constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances to all persons within the definition of the Class and fully complied with the due process requirement under all applicable statutes and laws and with the California Rules of Court.*

## 31. Honorable Thomas M. Durkin

**In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.**, (November 16, 2018)

No. 16-cv-8637 (N.D. Ill.):

*The notice given to the Class, including individual notice to all members of the Class who could be identified through reasonable efforts, was the best notice practicable under the circumstances. Said notice provided due and adequate notice of the proceedings and of the matters set forth therein, including the proposed settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement, to all persons entitled to such notice, and said notice fully satisfied the requirements of Rules 23(c)(2) and 23(e)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the requirements of due process.*

### 32. Honorable Kenneth J. Medel

**Huntzinger v. Suunto Oy**, (August 10, 2018)

No. 37-2018-27159 (CU) (BT) (CTL) (Cal. Super. Ct.):

*The Court finds that the notice to the Class Members regarding settlement of this Action, including the content of the notices and method of dissemination to the Class Members in accordance with the terms of Settlement Agreement, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances and constitute valid, due and sufficient notice to all Class Members, complying fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure § 382, California Civil Code § 1781, California Rules of Court Rules 3.766 and 3.769(f), the California and United States Constitutions, and any other applicable law.*

### 33. Honorable Thomas M. Durkin

**In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.**, (June 22, 2018)

No. 16-cv-8637 (N.D. Ill.):

*The proposed notice plan set forth in the Motion and the supporting declarations comply with Rule 23(c)(2)(B) and due process as it constitutes the best notice that is practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice via mail and email to all members who can be identified through reasonable effort. The direct mail and email notice will be supported by reasonable publication notice to reach class members who could not be individually identified.*

### 34. Judge John Bailey

**In re Monitronics Int'l, Inc. TCPA Litig.**, (September 28, 2017)

No. 11-cv-00090 (N.D. W.Va.):

*The Court carefully considered the Notice Plan set forth in the Settlement Agreement and plaintiffs' motion for preliminary approval. The Court finds that the Notice Plan constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and satisfies fully the requirements of Rule 23, the requirements of due process and any other applicable law, such that the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the releases provided therein, and this Court's final judgment will be binding on all Settlement Class Members.*

### 35. Honorable Ann I. Jones

**Eck v. City of Los Angeles**, (September 15, 2017)

No. BC577028 (Cal. Super. Cal.):

*The form, manner, and content of the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits B, E, F and G, will provide the best notice practicable to the Class under the circumstances, constitutes valid, due, and sufficient notice to all Class Members, and fully complies with California Code of Civil Procedure section 382, California Code of Civil Procedure section 1781, the Constitution of the State of California, the Constitution of the United States, and other applicable law.*

### 36. Honorable James Ashford

**Nishimura v. Gentry Homes, LTD.**, (September 14, 2017)

No. 11-11-1-1522-07-RAN (Haw. Cir. Ct.):

*The Court finds that the Notice Plan and Class Notices will fully and accurately inform the potential Class Members of all material elements of the proposed Settlement and of each Class Member's right and opportunity to object to the proposed Settlement. The Court further finds that the mailing and distribution of the Class Notice and the publication of the Class Notices substantially in the manner and form set forth in the Notice Plan and Settlement Agreement meets the requirements of the laws of the State of Hawai'i (including Hawai'i Rule of Civil Procedure 23), the United States Constitution (including the Due Process Clause), the Rules of the Court, and any other applicable law, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitutes due and sufficient notice to all potential Class Members.*

### 37. Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga

**Flaum v. Doctor's Assoc., Inc.**, (March 22, 2017)

No. 16-cv-61198 (S.D. Fla.):

*...the forms, content, and manner of notice proposed by the Parties and approved herein meet the requirements of due process and FED. R. CIV. P. 23(c) and (e), are the best notice practicable under the circumstances, constitute sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice, and satisfy the Constitutional requirements of notice. The Court approves the notice program in all respects (including the proposed forms*

of notice, Summary Notice, Full Notice for the Settlement Website, Publication Notice, Press Release and Settlement Claim Forms, and orders that notice be given in substantial conformity therewith.

### 38. Judge Manish S. Shah

**Johnson v. Yahoo! Inc.,** (December 12, 2016)

No. 14-cv-02028 (N.D. Ill.):

*The Court approves the notice plan set forth in Plaintiff's Amended Motion to Approve Class Notice (Doc. 252) (the "Notice Plan"). The Notice Plan, in form, method, and content, complies with the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and due process, and constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances.*

### 39. Judge Joan A. Leonard

**Barba v. Shire U.S., Inc.,** (December 2, 2016)

No. 13-cv-21158 (S.D. Fla.):

*The notice of settlement (in the form presented to this Court as Exhibits E, F, and G, attached to the Settlement Agreement [D.E. 423-1] (collectively, "the Notice") directed to the Settlement Class members, constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances. In making this determination, the Court finds that the Notice was given to potential Settlement Class members who were identified through reasonable efforts, published using several publication dates in Better Homes and Gardens, National Geographic, and People magazines; placed on targeted website and portal banner advertisements on general Run of Network sites; included in e-newsletter placements with ADDitude, a magazine dedicated to helping children and adults with attention deficit disorder and learning disabilities lead successful lives, and posted on the Settlement Website which included additional access to Settlement information and a toll-free number. Pursuant to, and in accordance with, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, the Court hereby finds that the Notice provided Settlement Class members with due and adequate notice of the Settlement, the Settlement Agreement, these proceedings, and the rights of Settlement Class members to make a claim, object to the Settlement or exclude themselves from the Settlement.*



#### 40. Judge Marco A. Hernandez

**Kearney v. Equilon Enter. LLC**, (October 25, 2016)

No. 14-cv-00254 (D. Ore.):

*The papers supporting the Final Approval Motion, including, but not limited to, the Declaration of Robert A. Curtis and the two Declarations filed by Gina Intrepido-Bowden, describe the Parties' provision of Notice of the Settlement. Notice was directed to all members of the Settlement Classes defined in paragraph 2, above. No objections to the method or contents of the Notice have been received. Based on the above-mentioned declarations, inter alia, the Court finds that the Parties have fully and adequately effectuated the Notice Plan, as required by the Preliminary Approval Order, and, in fact, have achieved better results than anticipated or required by the Preliminary Approval Order.*

#### 41. Honorable Amy J. St. Eve

**In re Rust-Oleum Restore Mktg, Sales Practices & Prod. Liab. Litig.**, (October 20, 2016)

No. 15-cv-01364 (N.D. Ill.):

*The Notices of Class Action and Proposed Settlement (Exhibits A and B to the Settlement Agreement) and the method of providing such Notices to the proposed Settlement Class...comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) and due process, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and provide due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice of the settlement of this Action.*

#### 42. Honorable R. Gary Klausner

**Russell v. Kohl's Dep't Stores, Inc.**, (October 20, 2016)

No. 15-cv-01143 (C.D. Cal.):

*Notice of the settlement was provided to the Settlement Class in a reasonable manner, and was the best notice practicable under the circumstances, including through individual notice to all members who could be reasonably identified through reasonable effort.*

#### 43. Judge Fernando M. Olguin

**Chambers v. Whirlpool Corp.**, (October 11, 2016)

No. 11-cv-01733 (C.D. Cal.):

*Accordingly, based on its prior findings and the record before it, the court finds that the Class Notice and the notice process fairly and adequately informed the class members of the nature of the action, the terms of the proposed settlement, the effect of the action and release of claims, their right to exclude themselves from the action, and their right to object to the proposed settlement.*

#### 44. Honourable Justice Stack

**Anderson v. Canada**, (September 28, 2016)

No. 2007 01T4955CP (NL Sup. Ct.):

*The Phase 2 Notice Plan satisfies the requirements of the Class Actions Act and shall constitute good and sufficient service upon class members of the notice of this Order, approval of the Settlement and discontinuance of these actions.*

#### 45. Judge Mary M. Rowland

**In re Home Depot, Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.**, (August 23, 2016)

No. 14-md-02583 (N.D. Ga.):

*The Court finds that the Notice Program has been implemented by the Settlement Administrator and the parties in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Agreement, and that such Notice Program, including the utilized forms of Notice, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances and satisfies due process and the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.*

#### 46. Honorable Manish S. Shah

**Campos v. Calumet Transload R.R., LLC**, (August 3, 2016)

No. 13-cv-08376 (N.D. Ill.):

*The form, content, and method of dissemination of the notice given to the Settlement Class were adequate, reasonable, and constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The notice, as given, provided valid, due, and sufficient notice of the*

Settlements, the terms and conditions set forth therein, and these proceedings to all Persons entitled to such notice. The notice satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Rule 23") and due process.

#### 47. Honorable Lynn Adelman

**Fond Du Lac Bumper Exch., Inc. v. Jui Li Enter. Co., Ltd., (Indirect Purchaser), (July 7, 2016)**  
**No. 09-cv-00852 (E.D. Wis.):**

*The Court further finds that the mailing and publication of Notice in the manner set forth in the Notice Program is the best notice practicable under the circumstances; is valid, due and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class members; and complies fully with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the due process requirements of the Constitution of the United States. The Court further finds that the forms of Notice are written in plain language, use simple terminology, and are designed to be readily understandable by Settlement Class members.*

#### 48. Judge Marco A. Hernandez

**Kearney v. Equilon Enter. LLC, (June 6, 2016)**  
**No. 14-cv-00254 (Ore. Dist. Ct.):**

*The Court finds that the Parties' plan for providing Notice to the Settlement Classes as described in paragraphs 35-42 of the Settlement Agreement and as detailed in the Settlement Notice Plan attached to the Declaration of Gina Intrepido-Bowden: (a) constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances of this Action; (b) constitutes due and sufficient notice to the Settlement Classes of the pendency of the Action, certification of the Settlement Classes, the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and the Final Approval Hearing; and (c) complies fully with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution, and any other applicable law. The Court further finds that the Parties' plan for providing Notice to the Settlement Classes, as described in paragraphs 35-42 of the Settlement Agreement and as detailed in the Settlement Notice Plan attached to the Declaration of Gina Intrepido-Bowden, will adequately inform members of the Settlement Classes of their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Classes so as not to be bound by the Settlement Agreement.*

## 49. Judge Joan A. Leonard

**Barba v. Shire U.S., Inc.**, (April 11, 2016)

No. 13-cv-21158 (S.D. Fla.):

*The Court finds that the proposed methods for giving notice of the Settlement to members of the Settlement Class, as set forth in this Order and in the Settlement Agreement, meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 23 and requirements of state and federal due process, is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.*

## 50. Honorable Manish S. Shah

**Campos v. Calumet Transload R.R., LLC**, (March 10, 2016 and April 18, 2016)

No. 13-cv-08376 (N.D. Ill.):

*The Court further finds that the mailing and publication of Notice in the manner set forth in the Notice Program is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, constitutes due and sufficient notice of the Settlement and this Order to all persons entitled thereto, and is in full compliance with the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, applicable law, and due process.*

## 51. Judge Thomas W. Thrash Jr.

**In re Home Depot, Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.**, (March 8, 2016)

No. 14-md-02583 (N.D. Ga.):

*The Court finds that the form, content and method of giving notice to the Class as described in Paragraph 7 of this Order and the Settlement Agreement (including the exhibits thereto): (a) will constitute the best practicable notice to the Settlement Class; (b) are reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the action, the terms of the proposed settlement, and their rights under the proposed settlement, including but not limited to their rights to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed settlement and other rights under the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (c) are reasonable and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all Class Members and other persons entitled to receive notice; and (d) meet all applicable requirements of law, including Fed. R.*

Civ. P. 23(c) and (e), and the Due Process Clause(s) of the United States Constitution. The Court further finds that the Notice is written in plain language, uses simple terminology, and is designed to be readily understandable by Class Members.

## 52. Judge Mary M. Rowland

***In re Sears, Roebuck and Co. Front-Loader Washer Prod. Liab. Litig.***, (February 29, 2016)  
No. 06-cv-07023 (N.D. Ill.):

The Court concludes that, under the circumstances of this case, the Settlement Administrator's notice program was the "best notice that is practicable," Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B), and was "reasonably calculated to reach interested parties," *Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co.*, 339 U.S. 306, 318 (1950).

## 53. Honorable Lynn Adelman

***Fond Du Lac Bumper Exch., Inc. v. Jui Li Enter. Ins. Co.,  
(Indirect Purchaser–Tong Yang & Gordon Settlements)***, (January 14, 2016)  
No. 09-CV-00852 (E.D. Wis.):

The form, content, and methods of dissemination of Notice of the Settlements to the Settlement Class were reasonable, adequate, and constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Notice, as given, provided valid, due, and sufficient notice of the Settlements, the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlements, and these proceedings to all persons and entities entitled to such notice, and said notice fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and due process requirements.

## 54. Judge Curtis L. Collier

***In re Skelaxin (Metaxalone) Antitrust Litig.***, (December 22, 2015)  
No. 12-md-2343 (E.D. Tenn.):

The Class Notice met statutory requirements of notice under the circumstances, and fully satisfied the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the requirement process.

## 55. Honorable Mitchell D. Dembin

**Lerma v. Schiff Nutrition Int'l, Inc.**, (November 3, 2015)

No. 11-CV-01056 (S.D. Cal.):

*According to Ms. Intrepido-Bowden, between June 29, 2015, and August 2, 2015, consumer publications are estimated to have reached 53.9% of likely Class Members and internet publications are estimated to have reached 58.9% of likely Class Members...The Court finds this notice (i) constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, (ii) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise the putative Class Members of the pendency of the action, and of their right to object and to appear at the Final Approval Hearing or to exclude themselves from the Settlement, (iii) was reasonable and constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to be provided with notice, and (iv) fully complied with due process principles and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.*

## 56. Honorable Lynn Adelman

**Fond Du Lac Bumper Exch., Inc. v. Jui Li Enter. Ins. Co.**,

**(Indirect Purchaser-Gordon Settlement)**, (August 4, 2015)

No. 09-CV-00852 (E.D. Wis.):

*The Court further finds that the mailing and publication of Notice in the manner set forth in the Notice Program is the best notice practicable under the circumstances; is valid, due and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class members; and complies fully with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the due process requirements of the Constitution of the United States. The Court further finds that the forms of Notice are written in plain language, use simple terminology, and are designed to be readily understandable by Settlement Class members.*

## 57. Honorable Sara I. Ellis

**Thomas v. Lennox Indus. Inc.**, (July 9, 2015)

No. 13-CV-07747 (N.D. Ill.):

*The Court approves the form and content of the Long-Form Notice, Summary Notice, Postcard Notice, Dealer Notice, and Internet Banners (the "Notices") attached as Exhibits A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4 and A-5 respectively to the Settlement Agreement. The*

Court finds that the Notice Plan, included in the Settlement Agreement and the Declaration of Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden on Settlement Notice Plan and Notice Documents, constitutes the best practicable notice under the circumstances as well as valid, due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto, and that the Notice Plan complies fully with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and provides Settlement Class Members due process under the United States Constitution.

## 58. Honorable Lynn Adelman

**Fond du Lac Bumper Exch., Inc. v. Jui Li Enter.Co., Ltd.**

**(Indirect Purchaser–Tong Yang Settlement), (May 29, 2015)**

No. 09-CV-00852 (E.D. Wis.):

The Court further finds that the mailing and publication of Notice in the manner set forth in the Notice Program is the best notice practicable under the circumstances; is valid, due and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class members; and complies fully with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the due process requirements of the Constitution of the United States. The Court further finds that the forms of Notice are written in plain language, use simple terminology, and are designed to be readily understandable by Settlement Class members.

## 59. Honorable Mitchell D. Dembin

**Lerma v. Schiff Nutrition Int'l, Inc., (May 25, 2015)**

No. 11-CV-01056 (S.D. Cal.):

The parties are to notify the Settlement Class in accordance with the Notice Program outlined in the Second Supplemental Declaration of Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden on Settlement Notice Program.

## 60. Honorable Lynn Adelman

**Fond du Lac Bumper Exch., Inc. v. Jui Li Enter. Co., Ltd.**

**(Direct Purchaser–Gordon Settlement), (May 5, 2015)**

No. 09-CV-00852 (E.D. Wis.):

The Notice Program set forth herein is substantially similar to the one set forth in the Court's April 24, 2015 Order regarding notice of the Tong Yang Settlement (ECF.

No. 619) and combines the Notice for the Tong Yang Settlement with that of the Gordon Settlement into a comprehensive Notice Program. To the extent differences exist between the two, the Notice Program set forth and approved herein shall prevail over that found in the April 24, 2015 Order.

## 61. Honorable José L. Linares

**Demmick v. Cellco P'ship**, (May 1, 2015)

No. 06-CV-2163 (D.N.J.):

The Notice Plan, which this Court has already approved, was timely and properly executed and that it provided the best notice practicable, as required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and met the “desire to actually inform” due process communications standard of *Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co.*, 339 U.S. 306 (1950). The Court thus affirms its finding and conclusion in the November 19, 2014 Preliminary Approval Order that the notice in this case meets the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Due Process Clause of the United States and/or any other applicable law. All objections submitted which make mention of notice have been considered and, in light of the above, overruled.

## 62. Honorable David O. Carter

**Cobb v. BSH Home Appliances Corp.**, (December 29, 2014)

No. 10-CV-0711 (C.D. Cal.):

The Notice Program complies with Rule 23(c)(2)(B) because it constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, provides individual notice to all Class Members who can be identified through reasonable effort, and is reasonably calculated under the circumstances to apprise the Class Members of the nature of the action, the claims it asserts, the Class definition, the Settlement terms, the right to appear through an attorney, the right to opt out of the Class or to comment on or object to the Settlement (and how to do so), and the binding effect of a final judgment upon Class Members who do not opt out.



### 63. Honorable José L. Linares

**Demmick v. Cellco P'ship**, (November 19, 2014)

No. 06-CV-2163 (D.N.J.):

*The Court finds that the Parties' plan for providing Notice to the Settlement Classes as described in Article V of the Settlement Agreement and as detailed in the Settlement Notice Plan attached to the Declaration of Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden: (a) constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances of this Action; (b) constitutes due and sufficient notice to the Settlement Classes of the pendency of the Action, certification of the Settlement Classes, the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and the Final Approval Hearing; and (c) complies fully with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution, and any other applicable law.*

*The Court further finds that the Parties' plan for providing Notice to the Settlement Classes as described in Article V of the Settlement Agreement and as detailed in the Settlement Notice Plan attached to the Declaration of Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden, will adequately inform members of the Settlement Classes of their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Classes so as to not be bound by the Settlement Agreement.*

### 64. Honorable Christina A. Snyder

**Roberts v. Electrolux Home Prod., Inc.**, (September 11, 2014)

No. 12-CV-01644 (C.D. Cal.):

*Accordingly, the Court hereby finds and concludes that members of the Settlement Class have been provided the best notice practicable of the Settlement and that such notice satisfies all requirements of federal and California laws and due process. The Court finally approves the Notice Plan in all respects...Any objections to the notice provided to the Class are hereby overruled.*

### 65. Judge Gregory A. Presnell

**Poertner v. Gillette Co.**, (August 21, 2014)

No. 12-CV-00803 (M.D. Fla.):

*This Court has again reviewed the Notice and the accompanying documents and finds that the "best practicable" notice was given to the Class and that the Notice*

was “reasonably calculated” to (a) describe the Action and the Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ rights in it; and (b) apprise interested parties of the pendency of the Action and of their right to have their objections to the Settlement heard. See *Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts*, 472 U.S. 797, 810 (1985). This Court further finds that Class Members were given a reasonable opportunity to opt out of the Action and that they were adequately represented by Plaintiff Joshua D. Poertner. See *Id.* The Court thus reaffirms its findings that the Notice given to the Class satisfies the requirements of due process and holds that it has personal jurisdiction over all Class Members.

## 66. Honorable Christina A. Snyder

***Roberts v. Electrolux Home Prod., Inc.***, (May 5, 2014)  
No. 12-CV-01644 (C.D. Cal.):

The Court finds that the Notice Plan set forth in the Settlement Agreement (§ V. of that Agreement) is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and constitutes sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice. The Court further preliminarily finds that the Notice itself IS appropriate, and complies with Rules 23(b)(3), 23(c)(2)(B), and 23(e) because it describes in plain language (1) the nature of the action, (2) the definition of the Settlement Class and Subclasses, (3) the class claims, issues or defenses, (4) that a class member may enter an appearance through an attorney if the member so desires, (5) that the Court will exclude from the class any member who requests exclusion, (6) the time and manner for requesting exclusion, and (7) the binding effect of a judgment on Settlement Class Members under Rule 23(c)(3) and the terms of the releases. Accordingly, the Court approves the Notice Plan in all respects...

## 67. Honorable William E. Smith

***Cappalli v. BJ’s Wholesale Club, Inc.***, (December 12, 2013)  
No. 10-CV-00407 (D.R.I.):

The Court finds that the form, content, and method of dissemination of the notice given to the Settlement Class were adequate and reasonable, and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The notice, as given, provided valid, due, and sufficient notice of these proceedings of the proposed Settlement, and

of the terms set forth in the Stipulation and first Joint Addendum, and the notice fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Constitutional due process, and all other applicable laws.

## 68. Judge Gregory A. Presnell

**Poertner v. Gillette Co.**, (November 5, 2013)

No. 12-CV-00803 (M.D. Fla.):

*The Court finds that compliance with the Notice Plan is the best practicable notice under the circumstances and constitutes due and sufficient notice of this Order to all persons entitled thereto and is in full compliance with the requirements of Rule 23, applicable law, and due process.*

## 69. Judge Marilyn L. Huff

**Beck-Ellman v. Kaz USA, Inc.**, (June 11, 2013)

No. 10-cv-02134 (S.D. Cal.):

*The Notice Plan has now been implemented in accordance with the Court's Preliminary Approval Order...The Notice Plan was specially developed to cause class members to see the Publication Notice or see an advertisement that directed them to the Settlement Website...The Court concludes that the Class Notice fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 23(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and all due process requirements.*

## 70. Judge Tom A. Lucas

**Stroud v. eMachines, Inc.**, (March 27, 2013)

No. CJ-2003-968 L (W.D. Okla.):

*The Notices met the requirements of Okla. Stat. tit. 12 section 2023(C), due process, and any other applicable law; constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances; and constituted due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto. All objections are stricken. Alternatively, considered on their merits, all objections are overruled.*

## 71. Judge Marilyn L. Huff

**Beck-Ellman v. Kaz USA, Inc.**, (January 7, 2013)

No. 10-cv-02134 (S.D. Cal.):

*The proposed Class Notice, Publication Notice, and Settlement Website are reasonably calculated to inform potential Class members of the Settlement, and are the best practicable methods under the circumstances... Notice is written in easy and clear language, and provides all needed information, including: (1) basic information about the lawsuit; (2) a description of the benefits provided by the settlement; (3) an explanation of how Class members can obtain Settlement benefits; (4) an explanation of how Class members can exercise their rights to opt-out or object; (5) an explanation that any claims against Kaz that could have been litigated in this action will be released if the Class member does not opt out; (6) the names of Class Counsel and information regarding attorneys' fees; (7) the fairness hearing date and procedure for appearing; and (8) the Settlement Website and a toll free number where additional information, including Spanish translations of all forms, can be obtained. After review of the proposed notice and Settlement Agreement, the Court concludes that the Publication Notice and Settlement Website are adequate and sufficient to inform the class members of their rights. Accordingly, the Court approves the form and manner of giving notice of the proposed settlement.*

## 72. Judge Tom A. Lucas

**Stroud v. eMachines, Inc.**, (December 21, 2012)

No. CJ-2003-968 L (W.D. Okla.):

*The Plan of Notice in the Settlement Agreement as well as the content of the Claim Form, Class Notice, Post-Card Notice, and Summary Notice of Settlement is hereby approved in all respects. The Court finds that the Plan of Notice and the contents of the Class Notice, Post-Card Notice and Summary Notice of Settlement and the manner of their dissemination described in the Settlement Agreement is the best practicable notice under the circumstances and is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Putative Class Members of the pendency of this action, the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and their right to object to the Settlement Agreement or exclude themselves from the Certified Settlement Class and, therefore,*

the Plan of Notice, the Class Notice, Post-Card Notice and Summary Notice of Settlement are approved in all respects. The Court further finds that the Class Notice, Post-Card Notice and Summary Notice of Settlement are reasonable, that they constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice, and that they meet the requirements of due process.

### 73. Honorable Michael M. Anello

**Shames v. Hertz Corp.**, (November 5, 2012)

No. 07-cv-02174 (S.D. Cal.):

...the Court is satisfied that the parties and the class administrator made reasonable efforts to reach class members. Class members who did not receive individualized notice still had opportunity for notice by publication, email, or both...The Court is satisfied that the redundancies in the parties' class notice procedure—mailing, e-mailing, and publication—reasonably ensured the widest possible dissemination of the notice...The Court OVERRULES all objections to the class settlement...

### 74. Judge Ann D. Montgomery

**In re Uponor, Inc., F1807 Plumbing Fittings Prod. Liab. Litig.**, (July 9, 2012)

No. 11-MD-2247 (D. Minn.):

The objections filed by class members are overruled; The notice provided to the class was reasonably calculated under the circumstances to apprise class members of the pendency of this action, the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and their right to object, opt out, and appear at the final fairness hearing;...

### 75. Judge Ann D. Montgomery

**In re Uponor, Inc., F1807 Plumbing Fittings Prod. Liab. Litig.**, (June 29, 2012)

No. 11-MD-2247 (D. Minn.):

After the preliminary approval of the Settlement, the parties carried out the notice program, hiring an experienced consulting firm to design and implement the plan. The plan consisted of direct mail notices to known owners and warranty claimants of the RTI F1807 system, direct mail notices to potential holders of subrogation

interests through insurance company mailings, notice publications in leading consumer magazines which target home and property owners, and earned media efforts through national press releases and the Settlement website. The plan was intended to, and did in fact, reach a minimum of 70% of potential class members, on average more than two notices each...The California Objectors also take umbrage with the notice provided the class. Specifically, they argue that the class notice fails to advise class members of the true nature of the aforementioned release. This argument does not float, given that the release is clearly set forth in the Settlement and the published notices satisfy the requirements of Rule 23(c)(2)(B) by providing information regarding: (1) the nature of the action class membership; (2) class claims, issues, and defenses; (3) the ability to enter an appearance through an attorney; (4) the procedure and ability to opt-out or object; (5) the process and instructions to make a claim; (6) the binding effect of the class judgment; and (7) the specifics of the final fairness hearing.

## 76. Honorable Michael M. Anello

**Shames v. Hertz Corp.**, (May 22, 2012)

No. 07-cv-02174 (S.D. Cal.):

The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action, substantially in the forms of Exhibits A-1 through A-6, as appropriate, (individually or collectively, the “Notice”), and finds that the e-mailing or mailing and distribution of the Notice and publishing of the Notice substantially in the manner and form set forth in ¶ 7 of this Order meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and due process, and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all Persons entitled thereto.

## 77. Judge Ann D. Montgomery

**In re Uponor, Inc., F1807 Plumbing Fittings Prod. Liab. Litig.**, (January 18, 2012)

No. 11-MD-2247 (D. Minn.):

The Notice Plan detailed in the Affidavit of Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances and constitutes due and sufficient notice of the Settlement Agreement and the Final Fairness Hearing to the Classes

and all persons entitled to receive such notice as potential members of the Class... The Notice Plan's multi-faceted approach to providing notice to Class Members whose identity is not known to the Settling Parties constitutes 'the best notice that is practicable under the circumstances' consistent with Rule 23(c)(2)(B)...Notice to Class members must clearly and concisely state the nature of the lawsuit and its claims and defenses, the Class certified, the Class member's right to appear through an attorney or opt out of the Class, the time and manner for opting out, and the binding effect of a class judgment on members of the Class. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B). Compliance with Rule 23's notice requirements also complies with Due Process requirements. 'The combination of reasonable notice, the opportunity to be heard, and the opportunity to withdraw from the class satisfy due process requirements of the Fifth Amendment.' *Prudential*, 148 F.3d at 306. The proposed notices in the present case meet those requirements.

## 78. Judge Jeffrey Goering

***Molina v. Intrust Bank, N.A.*, (January 17, 2012)**

**No. 10-CV-3686 (Ks. 18th J.D. Ct.):**

The Court approved the form and content of the Class Notice, and finds that transmission of the Notice as proposed by the Parties meets the requirements of due process and Kansas law, is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitutes due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

## 79. Judge Charles E. Atwell

***Allen v. UMB Bank, N.A.*, (October 31, 2011)**

**No. 1016-CV34791 (Mo. Cir. Ct.):**

The form, content, and method of dissemination of Class Notice given to the Class were adequate and reasonable, and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Notice, as given, provided valid, due, and sufficient notice of the proposed settlement, the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and these proceedings to all persons entitled to such notice, and said notice fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 52.08 of the Missouri Rules of Civil Procedure and due process.



## 80. Judge Charles E. Atwell

**Allen v. UMB Bank, N.A.**, (June 27, 2011)

No. 1016-CV34791 (Mo. Cir. Ct.):

*The Court approves the form and content of the Class Notice, and finds that transmission of the Notice as proposed by the Parties meets the requirements of due process and Missouri law, is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitutes due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.*

## 81. Judge Jeremy Fogel

**Ko v. Natura Pet Prod., Inc.**, (June 24, 2011)

No. 09cv2619 (N.D. Cal.):

*The Court approves, as to form and content, the Long Form Notice of Pendency and Settlement of Class Action ("Long Form Notice"), and the Summary Notice attached as Exhibits to the Settlement Agreement, and finds that the e-mailing of the Summary Notice, and posting on the dedicated internet website of the Long Form Notice, mailing of the Summary Notice post-card, and newspaper and magazine publication of the Summary Notice substantially in the manner as set forth in this Order meets the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and due process, and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice.*

## 82. Judge M. Joseph Tiemann

**Billieson v. City of New Orleans**, (May 27, 2011)

No. 94-19231 (La. Civ. Dist. Ct.):

*The plan to disseminate notice for the Insurance Settlements (the "Insurance Settlements Notice Plan") which was designed at the request of Class Counsel by experienced Notice Professionals Gina Intrepido-Bowden... IT IS ORDERED as follows:*

- 1. The Insurance Settlements Notice Plan is hereby approved and shall be executed by the Notice Administrator;*
- 2. The Insurance Settlements Notice Documents, substantially in the form included in the Insurance Settlements Notice Plan, are hereby approved.*



### 83. Judge James Robertson

***In re Dep't of Veterans Affairs (VA) Data Theft Litig.***, (February 11, 2009)  
MDL No. 1796 (D.D.C.):

*The Court approves the proposed method of dissemination of notice set forth in the Notice Plan, Exhibit 1 to the Settlement Agreement. The Notice Plan meets the requirements of due process and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances. This method of Class Action Settlement notice dissemination is hereby approved by the Court.*

### 84. Judge Louis J. Farina

***Soders v. Gen. Motors Corp.***, (December 19, 2008)  
No. CI-00-04255 (C.P. Pa.):

*The Court has considered the proposed forms of Notice to Class members of the settlement and the plan for disseminating Notice, and finds that the form and manner of notice proposed by the parties and approved herein meet the requirements of due process, are the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice.*

### 85. Judge Robert W. Gettleman

***In re Trans Union Corp.***, (September 17, 2008)  
MDL No. 1350 (N.D. Ill.):

*The Court finds that the dissemination of the Class Notice under the terms and in the format provided for in its Preliminary Approval Order constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, is due and sufficient notice for all purposes to all persons entitled to such notice, and fully satisfies the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the requirements of due process under the Constitution of the United States, and any other applicable law...Accordingly, all objections are hereby OVERRULED.*

## 86. Judge William G. Young

***In re TJX Cos. Retail Security Breach Litig.***, (September 2, 2008)

MDL No. 1838 (D. Mass.):

*...as attested in the Affidavit of Gina M. Intrepido...The form, content, and method of dissemination of notice provided to the Settlement Class were adequate and reasonable, and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Notice, as given, provided valid, due, and sufficient notice of the proposed settlement, the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and these proceedings to all Persons entitled to such notice, and said Notice fully satisfied the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and due process.*

## 87. Judge David De Alba

***Ford Explorer Cases***, (May 29, 2008)

JCCP Nos. 4226 & 4270 (Cal. Super. Ct.):

*[T]he Court is satisfied that the notice plan, design, implementation, costs, reach, were all reasonable, and has no reservations about the notice to those in this state and those in other states as well, including Texas, Connecticut, and Illinois; that the plan that was approved -- submitted and approved, comports with the fundamentals of due process as described in the case law that was offered by counsel.*

# III.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

1. **'Marching to Their Own Drumbeat.' What Lawyers Don't Understand About Notice and Claims Administration**, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, American Bar Association's (ABA) 23rd Annual National Institute on Class Actions, panelist (October 2019).
2. **Rule 23 Amendments and Digital Notice Ethics, accredited CLE Program**, presenter at Terrell Marshall Law Group PLLC, Seattle, WA (June 2019); Severson & Werson, San Francisco, CA and broadcast to office in Irvine (June 2019); Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Los Angeles, CA (May 2019); Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, IL (January 2019); Sidley Austin LLP, Century City, CA and broadcast to offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Washington D.C. (January 2019); Burns Charest LLP, Dallas, TX (November 2018); Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P., Minneapolis, MN (October 2018); Zimmerman Reed LLP, Minneapolis, MN (October 2018); Gustafson Gluek PLLC, Minneapolis, MN (October 2018).
3. **Ethics in Legal Notification, accredited CLE Program**, presenter at Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check LLP, Radnor, PA (September 2015); The St. Regis Resort, Deer Valley, UT (March 2014); and Morgan Lewis & Bockius, New York, NY (December 2012).
4. **Pitfalls of Class Action Notice and Settlement Administration, accredited CLE Program**, PRACTISING LAW INSTITUTE (PLI), Class Action Litigation 2013, presenter/panelist (July 2013).
5. **The Fundamentals of Settlement Administration, accredited CLE Program**, presenter at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Chicago, IL (January 2013); Wexler Wallace LLP, Chicago, IL (January 2013); Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Chicago, IL (October 2012); and Spector Roseman Kodroff & Willis, P.C., Philadelphia, PA (December 2011).
6. **Class Action Settlement Administration Tips & Pitfalls on the Path to Approval, accredited CLE Program**, presenter at Jenner & Block, Chicago, IL and broadcast to offices in Washington DC, New York and California (October 2012).
7. **Reaching Class Members & Driving Take Rates**, CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF SAN DIEGO, 4th Annual Class Action Symposium, presenter/panelist (October 2011).

8. **Legal Notice Ethics, accredited CLE Program**, presenter at Heins Mills & Olson, P.L.C., Minneapolis, MN (January 2011); Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P., Minneapolis, MN (January 2011); Chestnut Cambronne, Minneapolis, MN (January 2011); Berger & Montague, P.C., Anapol Schwartz, Philadelphia, PA (October 2010); Lundy Law, Philadelphia, PA (October 2010); Dechert LLP, Philadelphia, PA and broadcast to offices in California, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Washington D.C., and London and sent via video to their office in China (October 2010); Miller Law LLC, Chicago, IL (May 2010); Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC, New York, NY (May 2010); and Milberg LLP, New York, NY (May 2010).
9. **Class Actions 101: Best Practices and Potential Pitfalls in Providing Class Notice, accredited CLE Program**, presenter, Kansas Bar Association (March 2009).

## IV.

## ARTICLES

1. Gina M. Intrepido-Bowden, *Time to Allow More Streamlined Class Action Notice Formats – Adapting Short Form Notice Requirements to Accommodate Today’s Fast Paced Society*, LAW360 (2021).
2. Todd B. Hilsee, Gina M. Intrepido & Shannon R. Wheatman, *Hurricanes, Mobility and Due Process: The “Desire-to-Inform” Requirement for Effective Class Action Notice Is Highlighted by Katrina*, 80 TULANE LAW REV. 1771 (2006); reprinted in course materials for: CENTER FOR LEGAL EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL, *Class Actions: Prosecuting and Defending Complex Litigation* (2007); AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, *10th Annual National Institute on Class Actions* (2006); NATIONAL BUSINESS INSTITUTE, *Class Action Update: Today’s Trends & Strategies for Success* (2006).
3. Gina M. Intrepido, *Notice Experts May Help Resolve CAFA Removal Issues, Notification to Officials*, 6 CLASS ACTION LITIG. REP. 759 (2005).
4. Todd B. Hilsee, Shannon R. Wheatman, & Gina M. Intrepido, *Do You Really Want Me to Know My Rights? The Ethics Behind Due Process in Class Action Notice Is More Than Just Plain Language: A Desire to Actually Inform*, 18 GEORGETOWN JOURNAL LEGAL ETHICS 1359 (2005).

V.

## CASE EXPERIENCE

Ms. Intrepido-Bowden has been involved in the design and implementation of hundreds of notice programs throughout her career. A partial listing of her case work is provided below.

CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	LOCATION
<i>A.B. v. Regents of the Univ. of California</i>	20-cv-09555-RGK-E	C.D. Cal.
<i>Abante Rooter &amp; Plumbing, Inc. v. New York Life Ins. Co.</i>	16-cv-03588	S.D.N.Y.
<i>Advance Trust &amp; Life Escrow Serv., LTA v. Sec. Life of Denver Ins. Co.</i>	18-cv-01897-DDD-NYW	D. Colo.
<i>Ahmed v. HSBC Bank USA, NA</i>	15-cv-2057-FMO-SPx	N.D. Ill.
<i>Allen v. UMB Bank, N.A.</i>	1016-CV34791	Mo. Cir. Ct.
<i>Anderson v. Canada (Phase I)</i>	2008NLTD166	NL Sup. Ct.
<i>Anderson v. Canada (Phase II)</i>	2007 01T4955CP	NL Sup. Ct.
<i>Angel v. U.S. Tire Recovery</i>	06-C-855	W. Va. Cir. Ct.
<i>Baiz v. Mountain View Cemetery</i>	809869-2	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Baker v. Jewel Food Stores, Inc. &amp; Dominick's Finer Foods, Inc.</i>	00-L-9664	Ill. Cir. Ct.
<i>Barba v. Shire U.S., Inc.</i>	13-cv-21158	S.D. Fla.
<i>Beck-Ellman v. Kaz USA Inc.</i>	10-cv-2134	S.D. Cal.
<i>Beringer v. Certegy Check Serv., Inc.</i>	07-cv-1657-T-23TGW	M.D. Fla.
<i>Bibb v. Monsanto Co. (Nitro)</i>	041465	W. Va. Cir. Ct.
<i>Billieson v. City of New Orleans</i>	94-19231	La. Civ. Dist. Ct.
<i>Bland v. Premier Nutrition Corp.</i>	RG19-002714	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Boskie v. Backgroundchecks.com</i>	2019CP3200824	S.C. C.P.
<i>Brookshire Bros. v. Chiquita</i>	05-CIV-21962	S.D. Fla.
<i>Brown v. Am. Tobacco</i>	J.C.C.P. 4042 No. 711400	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Bruzek v. Husky Oil Operations Ltd.</i>	18-cv-00697	W.D. Wis.
<i>Campos v. Calumet Transload R.R., LLC</i>	13-cv-08376	N.D. Ill.
<i>Cappalli v. BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.</i>	10-cv-00407	D.R.I.
<i>Carter v. Monsanto Co. (Nitro)</i>	00-C-300	W. Va. Cir. Ct.

CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	LOCATION
<i>Chambers v. Whirlpool Corp.</i>	11-cv-01733	C.D. Cal.
<i>Cobb v. BSH Home Appliances Corp.</i>	10-cv-00711	C.D. Cal.
<i>Davis v. Am. Home Prods. Corp.</i>	94-11684	La. Civ. Dist. Ct., Div. K
<i>DC 16 v. Sutter Health</i>	RG15753647	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Defrates v. Hollywood Ent. Corp.</i>	02L707	Ill. Cir. Ct.
<i>de Lacour v. Colgate-Palmolive Co.</i>	16-cv-8364-KW	S.D.N.Y.
<i>Demereckis v. BSH Home Appliances Corp.</i>	8:10-cv-00711	C.D. Cal.
<i>Demmick v. Cellco P'ship</i>	06-cv-2163	D.N.J.
<i>Desportes v. Am. Gen. Assurance Co.</i>	SU-04-CV-3637	Ga. Super. Ct.
<i>Dolen v. ABN AMRO Bank N.V.</i>	01-L-454 & 01-L-493	Ill. Cir. Ct.
<i>Donnelly v. United Tech. Corp.</i>	06-CV-320045CP	Ont. S.C.J.
<i>Eck v. City of Los Angeles</i>	BC577028	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Engquist v. City of Los Angeles</i>	BC591331	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Ervin v. Movie Gallery Inc.</i>	CV-13007	Tenn. Ch. Fayette Co.
<i>First State Orthopaedics v. Concentra, Inc.</i>	05-CV-04951-AB	E.D. Pa.
<i>Fisher v. Virginia Electric &amp; Power Co.</i>	02-CV-431	E.D. Va.
<i>Fishon v. Premier Nutrition Corp.</i>	16-CV-06980-RS	N.D. Cal.
<i>Flaum v. Doctor's Assoc., Inc. (d/b/a Subway)</i>	16-cv-61198	S.D. Fla.
<i>Fond du Lac Bumper Exch. Inc. v. Jui Li Enter. Co. Ltd. (Direct &amp; Indirect Purchasers Classes)</i>	09-cv-00852	E.D. Wis.
<i>Ford Explorer Cases</i>	JCCP Nos. 4226 & 4270	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Friedman v. Microsoft Corp.</i>	2000-000722	Ariz. Super. Ct.
<i>FTC v. Reckitt Benckiser Grp. PLC</i>	19CV00028	W.D. Va.
<i>Gardner v. Stimson Lumber Co.</i>	00-2-17633-3SEA	Wash. Super. Ct.
<i>Gordon v. Microsoft Corp.</i>	00-5994	D. Minn.
<i>Grays Harbor v. Carrier Corp.</i>	05-05437-RBL	W.D. Wash.
<i>Griffin v. Dell Canada Inc.</i>	07-CV-325223D2	Ont. Super. Ct.
<i>Gunderson v. F.A. Richard &amp; Assoc., Inc.</i>	2004-2417-D	La. 14 <sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist. Ct.
<i>Hanks v. Lincoln Life &amp; Annuity Co. of New York</i>	16-cv-6399 PKC	S.D.N.Y.
<i>Herrera v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.</i>	18-cv-00332-JVS-MRW	C.D. Cal.
<i>Huntzinger v. Suunto Oy</i>	37-2018-00027159-CU-BT-CTL	Cal. Super. Ct.

CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	LOCATION
<i>In re Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litig.</i>	15-md-02617	N.D. Cal.
<i>In re Babcock &amp; Wilcox Co.</i>	00-10992	E.D. La.
<i>In re Blue Cross Blue Shield Antitrust Litig.</i>	13-CV-20000-RDP	N.D. Ala.
<i>In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.</i>	16-cv-08637	N.D. Ill.
<i>In re Countrywide Fin. Corp. Customer Data Sec. Breach</i>	MDL 08-md-1998	W.D. Ky.
<i>In re General Motors LLC Ignition Switch Litig. (economic settlement)</i>	2543 (MDL)	S.D.N.Y.
<i>In re High Sulfur Content Gasoline Prod. Liab.</i>	MDL No. 1632	E.D. La.
<i>In re Home Depot, Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.</i>	14-md-02583	N.D. Ga.
<i>In re Hypodermic Prod. Antitrust Litig.</i>	05-cv-01602	D.N.J.
<i>In re Keurig Green Mountain Single-Serve Coffee Antitrust Litig. (Indirect-Purchasers)</i>	14-md-02542	S.D.N.Y.
<i>In re Lidoderm Antitrust Litig.</i>	14-md-02521	N.D. Cal.
<i>In re Lupron Mktg. &amp; Sales Practices</i>	MDL No.1430	D. Mass.
<i>In re Mercedes-Benz Emissions Litig.</i>	16-cv-881 (KM) (ESK)	D.N.J.
<i>In re Monitronics Int'l, Inc., TCPA Litig.</i>	11-cv-00090	N.D. W.Va.
<i>In re Packaged Seafood Prods. Antitrust Litig. (DPP and EPP Class)</i>	15-md-02670	S.D. Cal.
<i>In re Parmalat Sec.</i>	04-md-01653 (LAK)	S.D.N.Y.
<i>In re Residential Schools Litig.</i>	00-CV-192059 CPA	Ont. Super. Ct.
<i>In re Resistors Antitrust Litig.</i>	15-cv-03820-JD	N.D. Cal.
<i>In re Royal Ahold Sec. &amp; "ERISA"</i>	03-md-01539	D. Md.
<i>In re Rust-Oleum Restore Mktg. Sales Practices &amp; Prod. Liab. Litig.</i>	15-cv01364	N.D. Ill.
<i>In re Sears, Roebuck &amp; Co. Front-Loading Washer Prod. Liab. Litig.</i>	06-cv-07023	N.D. Ill.
<i>In re Serzone Prod. Liab.</i>	02-md-1477	S.D. W. Va.
<i>In re Skelaxin (Metaxalone) Antitrust Litig.</i>	12-cv-194	E.D. Ten.
<i>In re Solodyn (Minocycline Hydrochloride) Antitrust Litig. (Direct Purchaser Class)</i>	14-md-2503	D. Mass.
<i>In re TJX Cos. Retail Sec. Breach Litig.</i>	MDL No. 1838	D. Mass.
<i>In re Trans Union Corp. Privacy Litig.</i>	MDL No. 1350	N.D. Ill.



CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	LOCATION
<i>In re Uponor, Inc., F1807 Prod. Liab. Litig.</i>	2247	D. Minn.
<i>In re U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs Data Theft Litig.</i>	MDL 1796	D.D.C.
<i>In re Zurn Pex Plumbing Prod. Liab. Litig.</i>	MDL 08-1958	D. Minn.
<i>In the Matter of GTV Media Grp. Inc.</i>	3-20537	SEC
<i>Johnson v. Yahoo! Inc.</i>	14-cv02028	N.D. Ill.
<i>Kearney v. Equilon Enter. LLC</i>	14-cv-00254	D. Ore.
<i>Ko v. Natura Pet Prod., Inc.</i>	09cv02619	N.D. Cal.
<i>Langan v. Johnson &amp; Johnson Consumer Co.</i>	13-cv-01471	D. Conn.
<i>Lavinsky v. City of Los Angeles</i>	BC542245	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Lee v. Stonebridge Life Ins. Co.</i>	11-cv-00043	N.D. Cal.
<i>Leonard v. John Hancock Life Ins. Co. of NY</i>	18-CV-04994	S.D.N.Y.
<i>Lerma v. Schiff Nutrition Int'l, Inc.</i>	11-cv-01056	S.D. Cal.
<i>Levy v. Dolgencorp, LLC</i>	20-cv-01037-TJC-MCR	M.D. Fla.
<i>Lockwood v. Certegy Check Serv., Inc.</i>	07-CV-587-FtM-29-DNF	M.D. Fla.
<i>Luster v. Wells Fargo Dealer Serv., Inc.</i>	15-cv-01058	N.D. Ga.
<i>Malone v. Western Digital Corp.</i>	20-cv-03584-NC	N.D. Cal.
<i>Markson v. CRST Int'l, Inc.</i>	17-cv-01261-SB (SPx)	C.D. Cal.
<i>Martinelli v. Johnson &amp; Johnson</i>	15-cv-01733-MCE-DB	E.D. Cal.
<i>McCall v. Hercules Corp.</i>	66810/2021	N.Y. Super. Ct.
<i>McCrary v. Elations Co., LLC</i>	13-cv-00242	C.D. Cal.
<i>Microsoft I-V Cases</i>	J.C.C.P. No. 4106	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Molina v. Intrust Bank, N.A.</i>	10-cv-3686	Ks. 18 <sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist. Ct.
<i>Morrow v. Conoco Inc.</i>	2002-3860	La. Dist. Ct.
<i>Mullins v. Direct Digital LLC.</i>	13-cv-01829	N.D. Ill.
<i>Myers v. Rite Aid of PA, Inc.</i>	01-2771	Pa. C.P.
<i>Naef v. Masonite Corp.</i>	CV-94-4033	Ala. Cir. Ct.
<i>Nature Guard Cement Roofing Shingles Cases</i>	J.C.C.P. No. 4215	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Nichols v. SmithKline Beecham Corp.</i>	00-6222	E.D. Pa.
<i>Nishimura v Gentry Homes, LTD.</i>	11-11-1-1522-07-RAN	Haw. Cir. Ct.
<i>Novoa v. The GEO Grp., Inc.</i>	17-cv-02514-JGB-SHK	C.D. Cal.
<i>Nwauzor v. GEO Grp., Inc.</i>	17-cv-05769	W.D. Wash.



CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	LOCATION
<i>In re Uponor, Inc., F1807 Prod. Liab. Litig.</i>	2247	D. Minn.
<i>In re U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs Data Theft Litig.</i>	MDL 1796	D.D.C.
<i>In re Zurn Pex Plumbing Prod. Liab. Litig.</i>	MDL 08-1958	D. Minn.
<i>In the Matter of GTV Media Grp. Inc.</i>	3-20537	SEC
<i>Johnson v. Yahoo! Inc.</i>	14-cv02028	N.D. Ill.
<i>Kearney v. Equilon Enter. LLC</i>	14-cv-00254	D. Ore.
<i>Ko v. Natura Pet Prod., Inc.</i>	09cv02619	N.D. Cal.
<i>Langan v. Johnson &amp; Johnson Consumer Co.</i>	13-cv-01471	D. Conn.
<i>Lavinsky v. City of Los Angeles</i>	BC542245	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Lee v. Stonebridge Life Ins. Co.</i>	11-cv-00043	N.D. Cal.
<i>Leonard v. John Hancock Life Ins. Co. of NY</i>	18-CV-04994	S.D.N.Y.
<i>Lerma v. Schiff Nutrition Int'l, Inc.</i>	11-cv-01056	S.D. Cal.
<i>Levy v. Dolgencorp, LLC</i>	20-cv-01037-TJC-MCR	M.D. Fla.
<i>Lockwood v. Certegy Check Serv., Inc.</i>	07-CV-587-FtM-29-DNF	M.D. Fla.
<i>Luster v. Wells Fargo Dealer Serv., Inc.</i>	15-cv-01058	N.D. Ga.
<i>Malone v. Western Digital Corp.</i>	20-cv-03584-NC	N.D. Cal.
<i>Markson v. CRST Int'l, Inc.</i>	17-cv-01261-SB (SPx)	C.D. Cal.
<i>Martinelli v. Johnson &amp; Johnson</i>	15-cv-01733-MCE-DB	E.D. Cal.
<i>McCall v. Hercules Corp.</i>	66810/2021	N.Y. Super. Ct.
<i>McCrary v. Elations Co., LLC</i>	13-cv-00242	C.D. Cal.
<i>Microsoft I-V Cases</i>	J.C.C.P. No. 4106	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Molina v. Intrust Bank, N.A.</i>	10-cv-3686	Ks. 18 <sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist. Ct.
<i>Morrow v. Conoco Inc.</i>	2002-3860	La. Dist. Ct.
<i>Mullins v. Direct Digital LLC.</i>	13-cv-01829	N.D. Ill.
<i>Myers v. Rite Aid of PA, Inc.</i>	01-2771	Pa. C.P.
<i>Naef v. Masonite Corp.</i>	CV-94-4033	Ala. Cir. Ct.
<i>Nature Guard Cement Roofing Shingles Cases</i>	J.C.C.P. No. 4215	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Nichols v. SmithKline Beecham Corp.</i>	00-6222	E.D. Pa.
<i>Nishimura v Gentry Homes, LTD.</i>	11-11-1-1522-07-RAN	Haw. Cir. Ct.
<i>Novoa v. The GEO Grp., Inc.</i>	17-cv-02514-JGB-SHK	C.D. Cal.
<i>Nwauzor v. GEO Grp., Inc.</i>	17-cv-05769	W.D. Wash.

CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	LOCATION
<i>Palace v. DaimlerChrysler</i>	01-CH-13168	Ill. Cir. Ct.
<i>Peek v. Microsoft Corp.</i>	CV-2006-2612	Ark. Cir. Ct.
<i>Plubell v. Merck &amp; Co., Inc.</i>	04CV235817-01	Mo. Cir. Ct.
<i>Podawiltz v. Swisher Int'l, Inc.</i>	16CV27621	Or. Cir. Ct.
<i>Poertner v. Gillette Co.</i>	12-cv-00803	M.D. Fla.
<i>Prather v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.</i>	15-cv-04231	N.D. Ga.
<i>Q+ Food, LLC v. Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of Am., Inc.</i>	14-cv-06046	D.N.J.
<i>Richison v. Am. Cemwood Corp.</i>	005532	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Rick Nelson Co. v. Sony Music Ent.</i>	18-cv-08791	S.D.N.Y.
<i>Roberts v. Electrolux Home Prod., Inc.</i>	12-cv-01644	C.D. Cal.
<i>Russell v. Kohl's Dep't Stores, Inc.</i>	15-cv-01143	C.D. Cal.
<i>Sandoval v. Merlex Stucco Inc.</i>	BC619322	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Scott v. Blockbuster, Inc.</i>	D 162-535	136 <sup>th</sup> Tex. Jud. Dist.
<i>Senne v Office of the Comm'r of Baseball</i>	14-cv-00608-JCS	N.D. Cal.
<i>Shames v. Hertz Corp.</i>	07cv2174-MMA	S.D. Cal.
<i>Sidibe v. Sutter Health</i>	12-cv-4854-LB	N.D. Cal.
<i>Staats v. City of Palo Alto</i>	2015-1-CV-284956	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Soders v. Gen. Motors Corp.</i>	CI-00-04255	Pa. C.P.
<i>Sonner v. Schwabe North America, Inc.</i>	15-cv-01358 VAP (SPx)	C.D. Cal.
<i>Stroud v. eMachines, Inc.</i>	CJ-2003-968-L	W.D. Okla.
<i>Swetz v. GSK Consumer Health, Inc.</i>	20-cv-04731	S.D.N.Y.
<i>Talalai v. Cooper Tire &amp; Rubber Co.</i>	MID-L-8839-00 MT	N.J. Super. Ct.
<i>Tech. Training Assoc. v. Buccaneers Ltd. P'ship</i>	16-cv-01622	M.D. Fla.
<i>Thibodeaux v. Conoco Philips Co.</i>	2003-481	La. 4 <sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist. Ct.
<i>Thomas v. Lennox Indus. Inc.</i>	13-cv-07747	N.D. Ill.
<i>Thompson v. Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.</i>	00-CIV-5071 HB	S.D. N.Y.
<i>Turner v. Murphy Oil USA, Inc.</i>	05-CV-04206-EEF-JCW	E.D. La.
<i>USC Student Health Ctr. Settlement</i>	18-cv-04258-SVW	C.D. Cal.
<i>Walker v. Rite Aid of PA, Inc.</i>	99-6210	Pa. C.P.
<i>Wells v. Abbott Lab., Inc. (AdvantEdge/Myoplex nutrition bars)</i>	BC389753	Cal. Super. Ct.

CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	LOCATION
<i>Wener v. United Tech. Corp.</i>	500-06-000425-088	QC. Super. Ct.
<i>West v. G&amp;H Seed Co.</i>	99-C-4984-A	La. 27 <sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist. Ct.
<i>Williams v. Weyerhaeuser Co.</i>	CV-995787	Cal. Super. Ct.
<i>Yamagata v. Reckitt Benckiser, LLC</i>	17-cv-03529-CV	N.D.Cal.
<i>Zarebski v. Hartford Ins. Co. of the Midwest</i>	CV-2006-409-3	Ark. Cir. Ct.

# EXHIBIT B

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)

A Final Approval Order will be submitted to the Court once the language is agreed upon by the parties.

# EXHIBIT 2

JOINT DECLARATION OF CLASS COUNSEL IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE  
SETTLEMENT, APPROVAL OF FORM AND MANNER OF  
NOTICE, APPROVAL TO NOTICE THE CLASSES, AND SETTING  
FINAL SETTLEMENT SCHEDULE AND DATE FOR FINAL  
APPROVAL HEARING PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 23(e)(1)

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)



New York, NY • San Francisco, CA

**Tadler Law LLP** is a WBENC-certified woman-owned litigation boutique law firm that represents consumers, investors, and businesses in complex and class action litigation nationwide. The firm's lawyers are regularly recognized as leaders in the plaintiffs' bar by the National Law Journal, Legal 500, Chambers and Partners, Lawdragon, Best Lawyers, Martindale Hubbell®, and Super Lawyers, among other ranking organizations. Most recently, Tadler Law's Partners Ariana J. Tadler and A.J. de Bartolomeo were recognized by Best Lawyers in America in the 2023 Edition, by Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers in the 2022 Edition, Chambers and Partners in 2022, and as Top Lawyers in America in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Lawyers list and were recently recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for class actions and mass torts, among others.

## LEADERS IN COMPLEX AND CLASS ACTION LITIGATION

**Data Breach and Privacy Litigation:** Our lawyers have extended the breadth of their respective practices on behalf of consumers and made their mark litigating class actions alleging massive data breaches and other violations of consumers' personal and data privacy. Our attorneys have spearheaded numerous highly technical cases and have successfully advanced novel legal theories to protect consumers from ever-evolving cybersecurity and data privacy threats. Representative matters include *In Re: Marriott International, Inc. Custom Data Security Breach Litigation*, MDL Case No. 19-md-2879 (D. Md.) (Plaintiffs' Steering Committee ("PSC")); *Adkins, et al. v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. C 18-05982 (N.D. Cal.) (appointed Class Counsel); *In re Equifax, Inc. Customer Data Breach Litigation*, 17-md-02800 (N.D. Ga.) (PSC) (settlement approved in January 2020 in excess of \$380 million for affected consumers, plus potential for \$125 million more for out-of-pocket expenses and credit monitoring); *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 5:16-MD-02752 (N.D. Cal.) (PEC; \$117.5 million settlement; Second Amended Order Granting Final Approval of Settlement issued July 22, 2020); *In re Target Corporation Customer Data Security Breach Litig.*, No. 14-md-2522 (D. Minn.) (PSC; \$10 million settlement); *Torres, et al. v. Wendy's International, LLC*, 16-cv-00210 (M.D. Fla.) (class counsel; \$3.4 million settlement); *Fero v. Excellus Health Plan*, No. 6:16-cv-06569 (W.D.N.Y.) (special discovery counsel to lead counsel); *In re Anthem, Inc. Data Breach*, No. 15-MD-02617 (N.D. Cal.) (plaintiffs' counsel; settlement created a \$115 million non-reversionary cash fund, delivered more than \$500 million in value to the class, and required extensive injunctive relief to prevent a future breach); *In re Premera Blue Cross Customer Data Breach Litig.*, No. 3:15-md-2633-SI (D. Or.) (plaintiffs' counsel).

**Consumer Litigation:** Our lawyers have long been leaders in protecting consumers from fraudulent and deceptive practices. Among other types of cases, our lawyers have led class actions challenging the use of "natural" labeling on food products made from bioengineered crops (GMOs). *E.g., In re Conagra Foods, Inc* No. 11-05379 (C.D. Cal.) (Class counsel; multi-state class certified; class certification affirmed by Ninth Circuit; petition for *writ of certiorari* denied

by U.S. Supreme Court; settlement received final approval; reversed on appeal; new settlement submitted for preliminary approval); *Frito-Lay North America, Inc. "All Natural" Litigation*, No. 12-MD-02413 (E.D.N.Y) (settled); *In re General Mills, Inc. Kix Cereal Litigation*, Case No. 2:12-cv-00249 (KM)(JBC)(D.N.J.) (Court-appointed Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel; case currently stayed).

Our lawyers are also currently representing consumers in a class action lawsuit alleging the failure to warn and disclose the risks associated with flea and tick collars that have led to numerous deaths and injuries to pets. *In Re: Seresto Flea And Tick Collar Marketing, Sales Practices And Products Liability Litigation*, No. 1:21-cv-04447 (N.D. Ill.). In *Juul Labs, Inc., Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, Case No. 19-md-02913-WHO (N.D. Cal.), we have served on the Discovery Committee multidistrict litigation against JUUL and big tobacco company Altria for deceptively marketing dangerous e-cigarettes and manipulating nicotine delivery to maximize addiction, causing a public health crisis and harming tens of thousands of minors and adults across the country.

Other representative consumer matters include: *In re Apple, Inc. Device Performance Litigation*, 5:18-MD-02827-EJD (N.D. Cal.) (class action; Ms. Tadler is a member of the court-appointed Plaintiffs' Executive Committee ("PEC") (\$310 million settlement in class action alleging Apple throttled the performance of certain devices, including iPhones, with degraded batteries; settlement received final approval; appeal pending); *Correa v. Sensa Products, LLC.*, No. BC476808 (Cal. Super. Court, Los Angeles Cty.) (\$9 million settlement; alleging that the defendant, manufacturer of a weight-loss product, lacked a sufficient scientific basis for certain of its marketing claims). Additionally, Partner A.J. de Bartolomeo is an acting member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In Re Avandia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 1871, alleging RICO and state law violations in a case concerning the fraudulent misrepresentation and concealment of safety risks associated with the blockbuster diabetes drug Avandia.

**Equal Pay Litigation:** Tadler Law is currently representing the United States Women's National Soccer Team's ("WNT") former goalkeeper Hope Solo in her gender-based employment discrimination lawsuit against the United States Soccer Federation ("USSF"). *Solo v. United States Soccer Federation*, No. 3:18-cv-05215-DMR (N.D. Cal.). Tadler Law Partner A.J. de Bartolomeo joined Solo's legal team to allege that significant pay disparities exist between the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team ("MNT") and the WNT. According to the suit, contrary to the assertions of USSF, there are no legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons for this gross disparity of wages, nor can it be explained away by any bona fide seniority, merit or incentive system, or any other factor other than sex. Together with Co-counsel, Tadler Law has worked diligently to expose these unsustainable defenses, highlighting the fact that in Fiscal Year 2017 USSF projected a net profit from the WNT of approximately \$5 million, while projecting a net loss of nearly \$1 million for the MNT. Despite this and other clear indicators of success, USSF refuses to compensate the WNT players at the same rate or better than that which it pays the MNT players. This is an inexcusable violation of the Equal Pay Act and Title VII.

Across many industries, evidence has shown that men tend to have higher wages than female workers for the same work. As a result, women's economic security is endangered, most severely for women of color, disabled women, elderly women, and women who face barriers to education. A women-owned complex and class action litigation boutique, Tadler Law lawyers understand the



importance of wage equity, and they hold employers accountable for pay discrimination, whether it is on behalf of a public figure, or private individuals, through counseling, negotiating terms of compensation, and, if necessary, through litigation.

Tadler Law also represents individuals seeking employment advice at the beginning, middle or end of the professional employment relationship. We counsel individuals in employment separation and severance negotiations, as well as compensation contract negotiations.

**E-Discovery:** Ariana J. Tadler pioneered the development of an E-Discovery Practice Group at a plaintiffs' firm while at a prior firm with which she was affiliated for 23 years. She assembled and trained a dedicated team to meet the E-Discovery demands of complex litigation and developed some of the most exceptional E-Discovery capabilities among U.S. law firms. Established more than 15 years ago, that E-Discovery practice grew extensively and today, Tadler Law offers clients the ability to go toe-to-toe with adversaries in the fast-evolving E-Discovery climate. This multidisciplinary group offers clients a full array of counsel services relating to discovery strategy, data preservation, data collection and storage, sophisticated data search and analysis, production, and computer forensic investigation, as well as training on E-Discovery issues, including application of the latest amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, local rules, and state law. All Tadler Law lawyers are trained and experienced in the field of E-Discovery and are regularly called on by attorneys and courts to oversee complex discovery in high-stakes litigation. *E.g., In Re: Marriott International, Inc. Custom Data Security Breach Litigation*, MDL Case No. 19-md-2879 (D. Md.) (appointed to PSC and lead offensive discovery); *Adkins, et al. v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. C 18-05982 (N.D. Cal.) (appointed Class Counsel and lead discovery counsel); *In re Apple, Inc. Device Performance Litigation*, 5:18-MD-02827-EJD (N.D. Cal.) (appointed to PEC and responsible for ESI and offensive discovery); *In re Equifax, Inc. Customer Data Breach Litigation*, 17-md-02800 (N.D. Ga.) (appointed to PSC and responsible for offensive discovery); *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 5:16-MD-02752 (N.D. Cal.) (appointed to PEC and responsible for leading discovery); *In re Target Corporation Customer Data Security Breach Litig.*, No. 14-md-2522 (D. Minn.) (appointed to the PEC and charged with leading discovery); *Fero v. Excellus Health Plan*, No. 6:16-cv-06569 (W.D.N.Y.) (special discovery counsel to lead counsel); *In re: Juul Labs, Inc. Marketing, Sales Practices & Prods. Liab. Litigation*, No. 3:19-md-2913 (N.D. Cal.) (managing E-Discovery and other coordinated discovery); *In re Glumetza Antitrust Litigation*, No. 3:19-cv-5822 (N.D. Cal.) (appointed to PEC and co-captain ESI); *In Re Avandia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 1871 (appointed to PSC and co-captain for ESI; lead defensive discovery).

**Antitrust Litigation:** Tadler Law's team is well versed in litigating national antitrust matters in various industries, including the pharmaceutical industry. To that end, Partner A.J. de Bartolomeo actively litigated a pharmaceutical antitrust class action in *In re Glumetza Antitrust Litigation*, No. 3:19-cv-5822 (N.D. Cal.) (de Bartolomeo appointed to PEC) (in February 2022, the court granted final approval to an over \$453 Million settlement granted for the case alleging that defendants violated federal antitrust laws by engaging in a scheme to charge supra-competitive prices for the diabetes prescription drug Glumetza). Ms. de Bartolomeo has also litigated other large antitrust matters in other industries at her prior firms, including consumer electronics and financial services.

**Business Litigation:** Tadler Law also provides consulting services to a national financial institution focusing on litigation risk analysis. Tadler Law is also part of the legal team representing K2 Distribution Company, LP, a large manufacturing and distribution company in litigation alleging breach of contract claims against Walmart, arising from multiple contracts negotiated and performed very early in the Covid-19 pandemic, pending in state court in Washington County, Arkansas. Tadler Law also represents individuals and businesses in various commercial and business disputes. Strategically tackling contract disputes to achieve prompt, cost-effective resolutions is our primary goal so that our clients can focus on their personal and business priorities rather than litigation or arbitration.

**Whistleblower Litigation:** Tadler Law continues to advocate for transparency and good corporate behavior. The United States has enacted a range of whistleblower laws to curb against, among other things, corporate fraud, securities fraud, market manipulation and actions that are not in the best interest of customers or clients. The Sarbanes Oxley Act and the Dodd Frank Act set forth regulatory regimes that provide mechanisms for whistleblowers to come forward and report misconduct. Whistleblowers who come forward, and are represented by a whistleblower lawyer, may be entitled to an award of some percentage of sanctions collected in actions pursued by the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC). Our lawyers represent individuals who have witnessed bad behavior within a company or organization and are intent on reporting to the appropriate regulatory agency, such as the SEC.

## THE TADLER LAW TEAM

**ARIANA J. TADLER** has extensive experience litigating and managing complex securities and consumer class actions, including high profile, fast-paced cases and data breach litigations. After more than 20 years working at Milberg LLP and then Milberg Tadler Phillips Grossman LLP, Ms. Tadler and her core team established Tadler Law LLP, a complex and class action litigation boutique firm.

Ms. Tadler is consistently recognized as one of the nation's preeminent leading authorities on electronic discovery and pioneered the establishment of an E-Discovery Practice group within a plaintiffs' firm structure. Ms. Tadler is regularly invited to speak on a variety of litigation and discovery-related topics and has authored numerous articles and developed and promoted best practice tips and tools, including *The Jumpstart Outline*, now in its

third edition, published by The Sedona Conference®.

Ms. Tadler and her team have actively litigated numerous highly publicized data breach litigations. Ms. Tadler serves on the PSC in the multidistrict litigation in *In Re: Marriott International, Inc. Custom Data Security Breach Litigation*, MDL Case No. 19-md-2879 (D. Md.). Other representative matters include *Adkins, et al. v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. C 18-05982 (N.D. Cal.) (appointed Class Counsel) (injunctive relief settlement granted final approval in May 2021); *In re Equifax, Inc. Customer Data Breach Litigation*, 17-md-02800 (N.D. Ga.) (relating to the credit bureau's data breach, which exposed the financial information of more than 145 million consumers; appointed to PSC; final approval granted on January 13, 2010, with \$380+ million settlement for affected consumers plus

a potential additional \$125 million for out-of-pocket losses and free credit monitoring for class members); *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 5:16-MD-02752 (N.D. Cal.) (class action arising from a breach affecting approximately 194 million user accounts; appointed to PEC; \$117.5 million common fund settlement approved; Second Amended Order Granting Final Approval of Settlement issued July 22, 2020); *In re Target Corporation Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 14-md-2522 (D. Minn.) (representing consumers in a class action alleging that Target Corp. failed to protect customers from a massive data breach during the holiday shopping season; appointed to PSC; achieved a \$10 million settlement).

Ms. Tadler is also currently serving on the PEC in the multidistrict litigation *In re Apple Inc. Device Performance Litigation*, No. 5:18-md-02827-EJD (N.D. Cal.). The *Apple* litigation arises from Apple's released iOS updates designed to slow down the performance of certain iPhones and iPads. The class complaints alleged Apple throttled the performance of certain devices, including iPhones, with degraded batteries. Ms. Tadler served as Co-Chair of the Offensive Discovery and ESI Coordination Committee. In March 2021, the court granted final approval of a \$310 million class action settlement, which is pending appeal.

Ms. Tadler is currently serving as lead counsel and settlement class counsel in a number of consumer cases involving the mislabeling of products that contained GMOs as "natural," including *In re ConAgra Foods, Inc.*, No. 11-05379 (C.D. Cal.) in which a multi-state class was certified by the district court, affirmed by the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and successfully survived Defendants' petition for a writ of *certiorari* to the United States Supreme Court. A settlement of that matter was approved in 2019 and

reversed on appeal; a new settlement has been negotiated and is now pending preliminary approval.

Ms. Tadler has been recognized for her ability to manage particularly large, complex, fast-paced litigations. Ms. Tadler's accomplishments include litigation of three cases in the Eastern District of Virginia (a/k/a the "Rocket Docket") in less than four years, including *In re MicroStrategy Securities Litigation*, a federal securities litigation, in which plaintiffs' counsel negotiated settlements valued at more than \$150 million. Ms. Tadler served on the PEC and as plaintiffs' liaison counsel in the *Initial Public Offering Securities Litigation* in which the court approved a \$586 million cash settlement. Among the thousands of defendants in this coordinated action were 55 prominent investment banks and more than 300+ corporate issuers.

Ms. Tadler also has been retained as Special Discovery Counsel in complex litigation and class actions. She represented the government of Colombia as Special Discovery Counsel in its pursuit of claims alleging smuggling and illegal sales of alcohol by several international companies for violation of United States RICO statutes and other common law claims. The engagement encompassed identifying relevant information responsive to defendants' requests, confirming and guiding preservation practices, and interviewing and collecting data from more than 100 custodians in 23 Colombian Departments (Colombia's equivalent to our States in the U.S.). The team also reviewed and produced data in the litigation and was tasked with ensuring compliance with the various privacy laws of Colombia and the United States with regard to personal data, controlled data and the transfer of sensitive information. Lawyers from other firms faced with E-Discovery challenges seek out Ms. Tadler for her guidance and counsel.

Appointed by United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts, Ms. Tadler serves on the Federal Civil Rules Advisory Committee. Now serving her second term, Ms. Tadler has been appointed by Committee Chair Judge Robert Dow to subcommittees tasked with reviewing and considering potential civil rules for multidistrict litigation (MDL) cases, discovery, and certain pleading devices.

Ms. Tadler has completed her service on The Sedona Conference®'s Board of Directors and, after five years as Chair, serves as Chair Emeritus of the Steering Committee for Working Group 1 on Electronic Document Retention and Production, the preeminent "think tank" on E-Discovery. In addition, she serves on the Advisory Board of Georgetown University Law Center's Advanced E-discovery Institute. Ms. Tadler also served as Executive Director for the Board of Advisors of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law's Data Law Initiative.

Ms. Tadler continues to be recognized for her litigation prowess by prominent legal industry rating organizations. Ms. Tadler's recent accolades include: repeated Band 1 (highest) recognition by Chambers and Partners' for E-Discovery (2019-2022); Best Lawyers, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions (2020-2023 Editions); Lawdragon for 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers (2021-2022 Editions); Top Lawyers in America in the U.S. News & World Report Best Lawyers list, recognition in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for E-Discovery and Information Governance (2021) and for Class Actions and Mass Torts (2020); Legal 500 as a 2021 Leading Lawyer E-Discovery and 2020 TIER 2 in E-Discovery; Super Lawyers (2010-2022); New York Metro Super Lawyers (2010-2022); Super Lawyers "Top 100 Lawyers in New York Metro Area" (2015-2019); Super Lawyers "Top 50 Women Lawyers in New York Metro Area" (2014-2020); Who's Who Legal Litigation: Leading

Practitioner – E-Discovery (2015-2022); Who's Who Legal Litigation: Global Elite Thought Leader Commercial Litigation – E-Discovery (2020-2022); and AV® Preeminent rating from Martindale Hubbell (2008-2022). The Legal 500 2016 rankings stated: "‘Consummate professional’ Ariana Tadler, who leads the E-Discovery unit [then at her former firm], is ‘exceptional, clear and forceful, a giant in her field’ ... ‘able to navigate technical discovery issues at a very high level.’"

Ms. Tadler is a member of several legal industry associations, including: American Bar Association; American Bar Foundation (Fellow); American Association for Justice (Legal Affairs Committee); New York State Bar Association; National Association of Women Lawyers; New York Women's Bar Association. Ms. Tadler is a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society that recognizes the country's top attorneys. She is also involved in various community and not-for-profit organizations and has served for 20 years on the board of Mobilization for Justice (MFJ). She recently served as Co-Chair of MFJ's benefit, which in the face of COVID-19 pivoted to a virtual event and proved to be a success.

Ms. Tadler commits countless hours to mentoring others in their educational and professional pursuits. She is particularly focused on fostering education and career opportunities for women and underprivileged youth.

Ms. Tadler was also a Founding Principal in, and serves as a consultant for, Meta-e Discovery LLC, an independent data hosting, management, and consulting company, which was the result of the 2015 spin-off of Milberg LLP's prior Litigation Support and Data Hosting services division that Ms. Tadler spearheaded.



Ms. Tadler graduated from Hamilton College in 1989 and received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in 1992.

**A.J. DE BARTOLOMEO** has nearly 30 years of experience prosecuting class actions and complex matters in courts throughout the United States. She has served in court-appointed leadership roles in numerous MDL mass tort and class action lawsuits.

Ms. de Bartolomeo served on the PSCs for *In re Yaz and Yasmin Birth Control Litigation*, *In re Actos Products Liability Litigation*, and *In re Pradaxa Products Liability Litigation*. Ms. de Bartolomeo has also served on Law and Briefing committees and has been involved with Daubert briefings in a number of cases, including *Yaz*, *Actos* and *Pradaxa*. She previously served on the PSC for *In re Transvaginal Mesh Litigation*. She also served as Co-Lead Counsel representing over 300 individuals (including minors) who used the Fitbit Force™ Wireless Activity + Sleep Wristband and suffered personal injuries and permanent scarring, achieving a 2017 settlement in aggregate matrix formula for a confidential amount.

In class action matters, she received Co-Lead position appointments in *In re Literary Works in Electronic Database Copyright Litigation*, MDL No. 1379 (S.D.N.Y.), *In re Motors Liquidation Company, et al., f/k/a General Motors Corp., et al.* (Bankruptcy Litigation) (S.D.N.Y.), *In re American Express Financial Advisors Securities Litigation* (S.D.N.Y.), and *CalSTRS v. Qwest Communications, et al.* (N.D. Cal.). She was appointed lead counsel in *Powers v. Cable & Wireless, Inc.* (D. Mass and then settled in Delaware Bankruptcy Court.) and *Telstar v. MCI, Inc.*, achieving a settlement of more than \$2.8 million in cash on behalf of class of commercial subscribers alleging FCA violations for unfair billing practices. Ms. de Bartolomeo served on the Plaintiff's Executive

Committee in *In re Glumetza Antitrust Litigation*, No. 3:19-cv-5822 (N.D. Cal.) and currently serves on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In Re Avandia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 1871.

Ms. de Bartolomeo has also served as Special Counsel to an international publicly traded personal care and beauty manufacturing corporation, providing litigation and regulatory risk consulting specifically to the General Counsel and the Board of Directors. Ms. de Bartolomeo also represented the company in litigation, both in prosecuting and defending business claims.

Ms. de Bartolomeo is in the forefront of advancing opportunities for women in the law. A former Chair of the Women's Trial Lawyer Caucus of the American Association of Justice, she oversaw the caucus's work in leadership training, student scholarship, membership, and political outreach.

Ms. de Bartolomeo has repeatedly received recognition for her litigation and leadership skills by legal industry rating organizations. Recent acknowledgements include: named to The Best Lawyers in America (2023 Edition); named by Lawdragon to 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers (2022 Edition); recognized as Top U.S. E-Discovery and Information Governance Practice and Band-4 Notable Practitioner by Chambers, USA in 2021; named among Top Lawyers in America in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Lawyers list; recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for class actions and mass torts, named to Legal 500 rankings as a Recommended Lawyer; received AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale Hubbell (2004-2022); and recognized by her peers as a Northern California Super Lawyer every year since 2013.

Other awards and recognition include the

Above and Beyond Award, American Association for Justice, 2018; Top 50 Women Lawyers in Northern California, 2017; Distinguished Service Award, American Association for Justice, 2016; and Top Women Attorneys in Northern California for 2014.

A frequent guest speaker and conference presenter, Ms. de Bartolomeo has addressed subjects of ethical procedures for client and case management, best settlement practices and procedures in complex litigation, pharmaceutical fraud, E-Discovery, Daubert challenges, Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 37(e), corporate litigation risk management and compliance procedures, diversity, and class action notice and settlement administration.

Past and present memberships and directorships include Member, American Bar Association; Member of ABA Sections on Litigation, and on Antitrust Law and Tort and Insurance Practice; Member, American Association for Justice; Member of the AAJ Executive Committee (2016-2018; Board of Governors (2016-Present); Executive Committee Member for Women's Trial Lawyer Caucus (2016-2020); Chair of Women's Trial Lawyer Caucus (2015-2016); Consumer Attorneys of California Board of Directors (2018-Present); Former Member, National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, Task Force on Securities Litigation and Damage Calculation; Former Member, American Bankruptcy Institute.

**TONY K. KIM** is an Associate with Tadler Law LLP. Prior to joining Tadler Law, Mr. Kim served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Kings County District Attorney's Office since 2019. Mr. Kim quickly rose up the ranks in a Trial Bureau, starting his career as a misdemeanor prosecutor and ultimately serving as a felony prosecutor. As a Brooklyn prosecutor, he investigated and prosecuted hundreds of misdemeanor and felony criminal cases, including cases involving attempted murder, possession of firearms, robberies, and burglaries. In preparation for grand jury presentations, Mr. Kim enhanced investigations by reviewing and obtaining additional evidence and interviewing civilians and members of law enforcement. He presented numerous cases before the grand jury where he direct examined witnesses and cross-examined defendants. Mr. Kim served as a co-chair on an attempted murder case which involved the prosecution and preparation for trial. He also conducted several evidentiary suppression hearings on cases involving possession of firearms.

Before attending law school, Mr. Kim worked with Ms. Tadler at her prior firm as her legal assistant and also worked as a paralegal focusing on securities class action cases at another class action firm.

Mr. Kim earned a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School and a B.A. in Political Science from Boston College. While in law school, he served as an Articles Editor for the Journal of Corporate, Financial & Commercial Law, Co-President of Legal Outreach – Motivating Youth Through Legal Education, Alumni Co-Chair of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, and First Year Student Advisor.

**ATTORNEYS FORMERLY WITH TADLER LAW LLP WHO WORKED  
ON THE CONAGRA LITIGATION**

**MELISSA RYAN CLARK** was a Partner with Tadler Law LLP until June 2020. She had spent more than a decade litigating complex and class action privacy, financial, and consumer cases, and is now associated with another firm.

She has a broad range of class action experience, having represented consumers in data privacy, data breach, and consumer fraud cases against data and tech giants like Facebook, Inc., Google, Apple, Inc., Equifax Inc., and RCN Corp., as well as corporations in other industries, such as Wendy's International, LLC. Ms. Clark also has a strong background in securities fraud litigation and has represented investors in class actions against publicly traded companies like ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Virgin Mobile USA.

Before working with Ms. Tadler at her prior firm, Ms. Clark worked at a boutique firm in New York, where she was part of a securities litigation team that recovered several multimillion-dollar settlements on behalf of investors. Her legal work experience also includes judicial externships with the Honorable Jerry Brown, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Louisiana and the Honorable Jay C. Zainey of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, as well as a clerkship for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

In addition to her legal work, Ms. Clark has experience teaching legal research, writing, and management communication skills as a Senior Fellow at Tulane Law School and an Adjunct Writing Instructor at Tulane University's Freeman School of Business.

She was an active member of the New York State Bar Association, where she serves on the Law, Youth & Citizenship Committee and

Mock Trial subcommittee, and the American Bar Association, where she served on the Professional Liability Committee as co-editor of the newsletter.

Ms. Clark received her B.S. from Florida State University in 2004 and her J.D. from Tulane University in 2007. She also attended UC Berkeley-Boalt Hall for a semester, where she received high honors in Securities & Class Action Litigation and was a member of the *California Law Review*. Ms. Clark has been recognized as a New York Super Lawyers "Rising Star" each year since 2011 and was named to the Benchmark Litigation 40 & Under Hot List in 2018.

**HENRY KELSTON** was a Partner with Tadler Law until September 2019. He received a B.S. degree, *cum laude*, from Tufts University in 1975, and a J.D. degree from New York University School of Law in 1978, where he was a member of the Annual Survey of American Law.

Mr. Kelston's practice concentrated in the areas of complex litigation, class actions and electronic discovery. Mr. Kelston has represented consumers in class actions against major food manufacturers challenging the use of "natural" claims on products containing GMOs. He has also litigated major data breach cases, including *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, concerning the largest consumer data breach in history at the time it was filed.

Mr. Kelston has extensive experience in state and federal court litigation, administrative proceedings, and arbitrations, and has been a regular speaker and CLE presenter on electronic discovery. He was a member of The Sedona Conference® Working Group 1 on Electronic Document Retention and

Production. He assisted in drafting The Sedona Conference® COMMENTARY ON LEGAL HOLDS: THE TRIGGER & THE PROCESS (expected publication in 2019) and served on the faculty for The Sedona Conference® EDISCOVERY NEGOTIATION TRAINING. Mr. Kelston also taught Basics of E-Discovery at Legal Services of New Jersey's 2018 In Depth Litigation Skills Training program.

Mr. Kelston is admitted in the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and the District of Connecticut.

**BROOKE A. ACHUA** was an Associate with Tadler Law LLP until December 2019. Her work principally involved sophisticated and complex discovery and forensic data analysis. At her prior firm, she focused her practice in complex civil litigation, representing both plaintiffs and defendants in class action claims, food and beverage labeling litigation, antitrust suits, contract disputes, and trade secret litigation. In this capacity, Ms. Achua managed forensic analysis of electronic discovery in cybersecurity actions, defended small-business owners from a variety of breach of contract claims, and propelled class certification forward through her representation of a class of merchants in a price-fixing suit. Ms. Achua used her technical experience to arrive at legal solutions to serve the needs of her clients.

Ms. Achua was also active in the legal community, including previously serving as an At-Large Director of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers and a member of the Federal Bar Association Minnesota Chapter. Before joining Tadler Law, Ms. Achua solidified her commitment to serving underrepresented communities as a Congressional Intern to Congressman Keith Ellison. Ms. Achua volunteered her time providing pro bono assistance to low-income

victims of domestic violence through the Tubman Pro Bono Safety Project.

Ms. Achua attended Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota on a full academic scholarship. She graduated with honors and received recognition for her dedication to pro bono work. In law school, Ms. Achua gained valuable court experience at the federal judiciary externing for the Honorable Michael J. Davis at the Minnesota U.S. District Court. Ms. Achua also served as the President of the Mitchell Hamline Black Law Student Association from September 2015 to May 2016, earning her the Judge Pamela G. Alexander Scholarship on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers.

**BRIAN R. MORRISON** was a Partner with Tadler Law LLP until May 2022. Mr. Morrison focused on prosecuting class actions and other complex litigation on behalf of consumers and small businesses. He has a strong working knowledge of consumer and product liability laws across various jurisdictions and industries, and experience in handling class certification issues and the creation and administration of multidistrict litigation.

Before joining Tadler Law, Mr. Morrison worked at several nationally recognized law firms, including one of the nation's leading class action and litigation firms. He has worked on some of the largest antitrust and consumer protection class actions in recent history, including the *Takata* airbag multidistrict litigation, the generic pharmaceutical pricing antitrust litigation, and several billion-dollar financial fraud matters. Additionally, he has consulted closely with state attorneys general and local governments to investigate potential recoveries as part of the opioid epidemic.

Mr. Morrison previously served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Jaynee LaVecchia of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, where he worked on a variety of novel and complex legal



issues. He also founded and co-chaired the Young Lawyers Division of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey and served as a founding member of the New Jersey Law Journal Young Lawyers Advisory Board. Brian worked vigorously to expand pro bono opportunities at his previous firms, serving as a member of his firm's pro bono committees.

Mr. Morrison earned a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Rutgers Law School and a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Georgetown University. While in law school, he was a Notes and Comments Editor for the Rutgers Law Journal and co-founded the Rutgers Business Law Association. He also served as a legal intern for the Honorable Theodore McKee, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the Honorable Reggie Walton, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the Honorable Jack Sabatino, Superior Court of New Jersey—Appellate Division, and the Honorable Carol Higbee, Superior Court of New Jersey.

**JOANN MILITANO** was a Senior Associate with Tadler Law LLP until February 2022, where she primarily focused on pursuing and mining electronically stored information (ESI) in nationwide class actions and other complex litigation. She has worked on all facets of E-Discovery matters for over ten years and has honed a unique set of skills necessary in today's litigation landscape, managing document reviews relating to antitrust matters, data breaches, class action litigation, patent infringement, and other commercial disputes. She is well versed in the use of the Relativity review platform and the application of Technology Assisted Review ("TAR") and other advanced data analytic tools. Ms. Militano has overseen large-scale reviews from inception to completion, tracking productivity, workflow, and budgetary issues. She also has managed and conducted privilege reviews, created detailed privilege logs, drafted and tested search terms and created protocols and other key materials used by review teams. Ms. Militano has solidified her reputation as the go-to ESI and discovery resource in complex litigations. She earned a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, and a B.A. in Anthropology and History, *magna cum laude*, from SUNY College at Oneonta.

# EXHIBIT 3

JOINT DECLARATION OF CLASS COUNSEL IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE  
SETTLEMENT, APPROVAL OF FORM AND MANNER OF  
NOTICE, APPROVAL TO NOTICE THE CLASSES, AND SETTING  
FINAL SETTLEMENT SCHEDULE AND DATE FOR FINAL  
APPROVAL HEARING PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 23(e)(1)

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)



DICELLO LEVITT

Justice in all its  
**DIMENSIONS**



## Overview

At DiCello Levitt, we're dedicated to achieving justice for our clients through class action, business-to-business, public client, whistleblower, and personal injury litigation. Every day, we put our reputations—and our capital—on the line for our clients. Throughour \$16B in recoveries, we've helped raise the bar for corporate conduct and responsibility, paving the way for a more just and equitable world.

## Practice Areas

- Agriculture and Biotechnology
- Antitrust and Competition Litigation
- Appellate and Policy Advocacy
- Civil and Human Rights Litigation
- Class Action Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Environmental Justice
- Insurance Litigation
- Labor and Employment Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Pharmaceutical Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
- Privacy, Technology, and Cybersecurity
- Product Liability
- Public Client
- Securities and Financial Services Litigation
- Whistleblower, Qui Tam, and False Claims Act

## Members of the Firm

Our attorneys have the ability to successfully try cases across the spectrum of complex commercial litigation, financial fraud and securities litigation, public litigation, class actions, defective drug and device cases, catastrophic injuries, and other areas of law. The firm boasts an impressive roster of attorneys.



**Mark A. DiCello**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**  
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law,  
J.D.

University of Dayton, B.A.

Mark DiCello is a founding partner of DiCello Levitt. He explains that after 20 years of jury trials and serving in lead roles in some of the largest personal injury cases in Ohio and around the country, he wanted to create a plaintiffs' firm that did not exist, a firm that brought together top talent in the most important areas of plaintiffs' law.

Mark understands that while our technology-driven society continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, the law is slow to adapt. That means the most powerful economic interests typically operate "ahead" of the law. Representing people hurt by them, from serious catastrophic physical injury to life changing economic injury, is more challenging than ever. Through that lens, he has a simple message: "While Justice is your right, society won't just give it to you, you have to fight for it." This insight forms the heart of his approach to litigation and firm building.

Mark's clients are all victims – from individuals suffering catastrophic personal injuries to groups of plaintiffs harmed by medical devices, pharmaceutical products, chemicals, automobiles, and more. He has led headline-grabbing mass tort and product liability cases and co-led massive multidistrict litigations.

For Mark, all of his experiences have led inevitably to the 2017 creation of powerhouse trial firm DiCello Levitt. He views the firm as unique in the plaintiffs' bar – a diverse and fearless team of lawyers focused on important litigations in the U.S. and abroad. His vision is to continue building a firm comprising leaders in the law with strong underlying frameworks that ensure the firm can thrive for generations to come.



**Adam Levitt**

Partner

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**EDUCATION**

Northwestern University School of Law, J.D.

Columbia College, Columbia University, A.B., *magna cum laude*

Adam Levitt has scored important wins leading dozens of significant litigations on behalf of individuals, businesses, and public clients and has built a firm that reflects his resolve for justice in all its dimensions.

One of the nation's leading advocates for plaintiffs in complex multidistrict, commercial, public client, and class action litigations, Adam has delivered nearly \$20 billion in recoveries to clients in biotechnology, financial services, insurance coverage, consumer protection, automotive defects, agricultural products, antitrust, and securities disputes.

Adam's reputation for innovatively taking on tough cases has led to his appointment by State Attorneys General in the largest ongoing environmental PFAS water contamination cases of our time, and the historic litigation arising from Volkswagen's emissions scandal, where, as a court-appointed member of a leadership group characterized as a "class action dream team," he helped to secure a \$16 billion settlement that benefitted car buyers across the United States.

Adam has also served as co-lead counsel in three of the largest biotechnology class actions in history. He secured \$1.1 billion in settlements resulting from contamination of the U.S. rice supply with genetically modified seeds; helped to obtain a \$550 million settlement on behalf of landowners and landscapers in a class action involving tree and other foliage death and harm caused by an herbicide; and recovered \$110 million for farmers who sustained market losses on corn crops from contamination of the U.S. corn supply with genetically modified corn.

In addition to securing significant financial relief for his clients, Adam's work has changed how biotechnology class action cases are litigated in the U.S. He co-created a game-changing economic model to measure crop contamination damages that set the modern industry standard.

Adam's groundbreaking work on behalf of plaintiffs has been recognized locally and nationally in prestigious ranking directories, including *Chambers USA*, where he received a Band 1 ranking for Mainly Plaintiffs Litigation in Illinois. *Chambers USA* also ranked Adam in Illinois for General Commercial Litigation and nationwide for Product Liability Litigation, where the editors describe him as the "go-to plaintiffs' attorney in the class actions space." In 2021 and 2022, *Benchmark Litigation* awarded Adam National Litigation Star: Securities and Litigation Star in Illinois. According to *The National Law Journal*, Adam is a "pioneer" in technology litigation, and *Crain's Chicago Business* named him a 2021 Notable Gen X Leader in Accounting, Consulting, and Law.

An elected member of the American Law Institute and the Economic Club of Chicago, Adam considers the formation of DiCello Levitt in 2017 to be a pivotal moment in his decades-long legal career. With a shared vision, foundation of trust, and commitment to holding large companies accountable for injuries caused by their products and practices, he and his partners intend to maintain their industry-wide influence and successful track record for years to come.



**Kenneth Abbarno**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law,  
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Canisius College, B.A.

Toxic exposure to chemicals goes hand in hand with truck crash cases. Ken saw that early in his career. More than twenty years ago, Ken found himself called to the scene of a major truck crash. As a young lawyer, he witnessed what really happens in the aftermath of that kind of tragedy. He saw how truck companies protect their drivers. He saw a small police department struggle with securing a crime scene and preserving evidence. He saw how people in cars don't stand a chance when a truck driver loses control. He saw the impact that a spilled tanker can have on the environment and how toxic exposure can change lives in minutes. That experience shaped the rest of his professional career.

As a former defense lawyer, Ken was recruited by the most accomplished plaintiff-side law firms in the United States. Ken chose to join DiCello Levitt, understanding that he would have unique and unrivaled access to resources not available at any of the traditional personal injury firms. Since joining the firm, Ken has set himself apart as a leader who coordinates complex medical malpractice, birth injury, truck crash, and toxic exposure cases, all while mentoring young lawyers advancing in the trial bar and serving as the firm's General Counsel.

Over the past three decades, Ken has been recognized as a top-tier litigator in medical malpractice cases and in the transportation industry. He's litigating major medical malpractice, truck crash, and toxic exposure cases in multiple jurisdictions across the United States. Throughout his career, Ken has been recognized by the medical and trucking industries and his peers as an elite trial lawyer.

Ken is a sought-after voice and has published articles in national transportation magazines and spoken at conferences across the country. He has been selected as an Ohio Super Lawyer every year since 2010, and was named an Inside Business Leading Lawyer, Cleveland's Transportation Lawyer of the Year, and recognized in The Best Lawyers in America.





**Mark M. Abramowitz**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

University of Toledo College of Law,  
J.D.

University of Guelph, B.A.

Mark has demonstrated expertise in leveraging cutting-edge technology in DiCello Levitt's modern and evolving trial practice to achieve what were previously believed to be impossible results for his clients. An Internet technology expert, he is a student of integrating technology into the practice of law. He has been selected to national discovery review teams and is regularly consulted on cloud-based systems, discovery technology, the Internet of Things, and litigation concerning data storage and security. He has testified before the Ohio State Legislature multiple times on data security and related issues.

Mark is a respected litigator and trial lawyer who has recouped life changing compensation for clients around the country. He has expertise and experience ranging from defective products to Internet technology disputes. Mark is recognized for breaking barriers in medical malpractice litigation through groundbreaking work in exposing electronic medical record alterations and successfully expanding states' damages caps in joint replacement surgery cases.

Mark brings a unique voice to the Sedona Conference's Data Security and Privacy Liability working group and is one of the authors of Sedona's Biometric Privacy Primer. He has also served as a Trustee of the Ohio Association for Justice since 2014. Mark is currently Editor-in-Chief of *Ohio Trial* and is a member of *Law360's* Personal Injury Editorial Advisory Board.





**F. Franklin Amanat**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

Harvard Law School, J.D., *cum laude*

The University of Pennsylvania, B.A.,  
*summa cum laude*

Frank Amanat is a highly-decorated litigator with nearly 30 years of experience in a broad range of complex legal matters. He has particular expertise in constitutional and administrative law, as well as class actions, financial and securities fraud, health care and pharmaceutical litigation, False Claims Act and FIRREA litigation, complex torts, civil rights, and environmental litigation. A veteran of 19 trials and arbitrations and dozens of appeals, Frank has led some of the largest and most consequential civil litigation in the country, appearing on both the plaintiff and defense side, and he has amassed a remarkable track record delivering successful outcomes to his clients.

Frank specializes in representing victims of fraudulent and illegal conduct, as well as whistleblowers, governmental entities, and other plaintiffs, in a wide range of high-impact litigation, including class actions and multidistrict litigation. His practice focuses on financial and securities fraud, health care fraud, civil rights, mass torts, and other complex commercial litigation.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Frank spent 24 years at the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ"), including more than two decades as an Assistant United States Attorney and then Senior Counsel at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York (Brooklyn), plus stints at the Office of Legal Policy ("OLP") and the Office of Immigration Litigation. At DOJ, Frank handled over 400 cases, both affirmative and defensive, on behalf of more than 70 federal agencies. From 2013 to 2018, he served as lead counsel for the Government in the successful investigation and prosecution of Barclays Bank and two of its former executives for fraud in connection with the sale of residential mortgage-backed securities. The \$2 billion settlement is the largest single recovery the Department of Justice has ever obtained in a civil penalty action filed under FIRREA.

For his work at OLP developing regulations implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act (the largest and most complex rulemaking initiative ever undertaken in the Department of Justice), Frank was awarded in 2012 the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, the second highest award conferred by the Department of Justice. In September 2020, Frank received the EOUSA Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney (Civil) for his work on financial fraud and public policy cases, as well as several immigration policy class actions. In 2018, Frank received the Henry L. Stimson Medal, an award given annually by the New York City Bar Association to honor outstanding Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the EDNY and SDNY for their integrity, fairness, courage, and superior commitment to the public good.



**Greg Asciolla**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

Catholic University of America, J.D.

Boston College, A.B., *cum laude*

Gregory Asciolla is a Partner in DiCello Levitt's New York office, where he serves as Chair of the Firm's Antitrust and Competition Litigation Practice. Greg focuses on representing businesses, public pension funds, and health and welfare funds in complex antitrust and commodities class actions. Greg currently represents clients in antitrust matters involving price-fixing, monopolization, benchmark and commodities manipulation, pay-for-delay agreements, and other anticompetitive practices. He also has represented, pro bono, three Ugandan LGBTQ clients seeking asylum in the U.S.

Greg has recovered billions on behalf of his clients and leads extensive investigations into potential anticompetitive conduct, often resulting in first-to-file cases. Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Greg chaired a nationally-recognized antitrust practice group as a partner and oversaw significant growth in group size, leadership appointments, cases filed, investigations, and reputation. He also litigated and managed civil and criminal antitrust matters involving price-fixing, merger, and monopolization and conducted internal investigations and managed responses to government investigations on behalf of corporate targets as a partner at Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP. Greg began his career as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division, where he focused on anticompetitive conduct in the healthcare industry.

Greg is regularly appointed to leadership positions in major antitrust cases in federal courts throughout the U.S., including *Generic Drugs*, *Eurozone Government Bonds*, *Platinum and Palladium*, *Surescripts*, *Crop Inputs*, *Opana*, and *Exforge*.

Named a "Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar" by *Law360* as well as a leading plaintiffs' competition lawyer by *Global Competition Review* and Chambers & Partners USA, Greg is often recognized for his experience and involvement in high-profile cases. He has been named one of the "Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers in America" by Lawdragon, a "Litigation Star" by Benchmark Litigation, and a "Leading Lawyer" and a "Next Generation Lawyer" by The Legal 500, with sources describing him as "very effective plaintiffs' counsel" and "always act[ing] with a good degree of professionalism."

Greg makes substantial contributions to the antitrust bar. In 2016, he was elected to the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, where he formerly served as the Chairman of the Horizontal Restraints Committee. He also currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Antitrust and Trade Regulation Committee of the New York County Lawyers' Association and Membership Chair of the Committee to Support the Antitrust Laws. Greg is an annual invitee of the exclusive Antitrust Forum, serves as the U.S. Representative to the Banking Litigation Network, and is on the Advisory Board of the American Antitrust Institute.



**Bruce D. Bernstein**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

The George Washington University  
Law School, J.D.

University of Vermont, B.S., *cum  
laude*

Bruce Bernstein has successfully handled a wide range of commercial litigation including suits against large banks, mortgage lenders, automobile manufacturers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, insurers, and healthcare systems. He has successfully litigated these matters at all levels, including before the U.S. Supreme Court.

As a Trial Attorney in the Civil Fraud Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Bruce investigated, litigated, and resolved complex *qui tam* actions asserting claims under the False Claims Act. In addition, on behalf of the United States, he oversaw the litigation of a large action, pending in Germany, asserting securities fraud-type claims against a multinational automobile manufacturer, which was brought to recover losses incurred by the Federal Thrift Savings Plan, one of the largest defined contribution plans in the world. In private practice, he successfully litigated some of the largest securities fraud actions ever filed. Bruce was a pivotal member of the team that secured significant decisions from the Third Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court in the securities class action against *Merck & Co., Inc.*, which arose out of Merck's alleged misrepresentations about the cardiovascular safety of its painkiller drug Vioxx. That action was ultimately resolved for more than \$1 billion, which at the time of its resolution, was the largest securities recovery ever achieved on behalf of investors against a pharmaceutical company.

Bruce has also served as an adjunct professor at The George Washington University Law School and taught written and oral advocacy. Separately, he has authored and co-authored a number of articles on developments in the federal securities laws, including co-authoring, along with several former colleagues, the first chapter of Lexis/Nexis's seminal industry guide *Litigating Securities Class Actions* (2010 and 2012).



**Diandra “Fu” Debrosse  
Zimmerman**  
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**EDUCATION**

Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law, J.D.

City College of the City University of  
New York, B.A., *summa cum laude*

Diandra “Fu” Debrosse Zimmermann is managing partner of DiCello Levitt’s Birmingham office, co-managing partner of the Washington, D.C. office, and co-chair of the firm’s Mass Tort division. Fu is also a member of the firm’s Public Client, Environmental, Personal Injury, Civil Rights, and Trial practice groups. Widely known for her relentless client advocacy, Fu represents individuals and public entities injured by wrongful conduct, whether from defective medical devices or drugs, environmental contamination, corporate misconduct, or civil rights abuse. Nationally recognized as a powerhouse in mass torts, class actions, products liability, discrimination, and sexual assault claims, Fu has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in client damages.

Fu holds prominent leadership positions for several multidistrict litigations, including Co-Lead Counsel of *In re: Abbott Laboratories, et al., Preterm Infant Nutrition Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 3026); Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee for *In re: Paraquat Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 3004); Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee for *In re: Smith & Nephew Birmingham Hip Resurfacing Hip Implant Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2775); municipalities in both *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation* (MDL No. 2804) and *In re: McKinsey & Company Inc., National Prescription Opiate Consultant Litigation* (MDL No. 2996); and counsel in *In re: Proton Pump Inhibitor Litigation* (MDL No. 2789). Fu also held a seat on the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee for *In re: Higher One Account Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation* (MDL No. 2407) and has represented plaintiffs in multiple additional multidistrict litigations. Fu also leads many systematic civil rights and sexual assault cases and represents states and municipalities in litigation.

Fu was recognized in 2022 as one of the 500 Leading Consumer Lawyers by *Lawdragon*. *Chambers USA 2022* ranked the firm’s Litigation: Mainly Plaintiffs team among the top five in Alabama. The *Birmingham Business Journal* honored Fu with a Best of the Bar Award and Who’s Who in the Law recognitions in 2021 and 2022. She is repeatedly named as an *Alabama Super Lawyer*, among other recognitions and awards.

Fu is a founding member of Shades of Mass, an organization dedicated to encouraging the appointment of black and brown attorneys in national mass tort actions. She is a board member of Public Justice, the Southern Trial Lawyers Association, and a member of the Birmingham Bar Foundation. Fu previously served as a hearing officer for the Alabama State Bar, and held leadership roles in the American Association for Justice, the Alabama Access to Justice Commission, and was an Alabama State Bar vice president and commissioner. Fu also served as the president of the Magic City Bar Association, the legislative liaison to the Alabama Lawyers Association, and is a former member of the Birmingham Bar Association Executive Committee.

Fu is fluent in French and Haitian Creole and functional in Spanish. Her steadfast pursuit of justice is motivated in large part by her experience as a mother of two young girls.



**Bobby DiCello**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law,  
J.D.

Northwestern University, M.A.

University of Dayton, B.A.

Bobby DiCello's practice encompasses locally and nationally significant cases across a broad range of topics with a focus on restoring the human dignity stolen by civil rights abuses, catastrophic injuries, defective products, and corporate misconduct.

The trial of Officer Derek Chauvin for George Floyd's murder was the most anticipated civil rights trial in recent history. When ABC News Live decided to cover the trial and produce the series *The Death of George Floyd—Derek Chauvin on Trial*, they realized that they needed an authority on high-profile trials to analyze and comment on the Floyd trial. Anticipating a national and international audience, ABC called on Bobby to give his opinions on the case. Between focus group preparation for a major pharmaceutical trial and research into the psychology of modern jurors, Bobby made himself available for weeks of real-time commentary and insight into the trial process.

Bobby is a force in the trial bar. He has obtained record verdicts in cases thought unwinnable, while, at the same time, leading cutting-edge research into juror decision-making in the politically polarized jury system. Bobby has successfully tried, as a first-chair trial lawyer, catastrophic injury and death cases, civil rights cases, medical malpractice cases, mass tort bellwether cases, qui tam cases, and financial services cases, as well as major felony prosecutions, major criminal defense actions, and a variety of other cases that have branded him as one of the nation's best modern-day trial lawyers.

In 2021, Public Justice awarded Bobby its prestigious Trial Lawyer of the Year award for his work in the landmark *Black v. Hicks* police brutality and corruption case in the City of East Cleveland, Ohio. Public Justice presents this annual award to attorneys who promote the public interest by trying a precedent setting, socially significant case. Bobby tried the *Black* case to a jury that awarded Mr. Black a record \$50 million—a verdict that has since been sustained up to the United States Supreme Court. Bobby has also been recognized twice as an “agent of change” by *The National Law Journal* in its annual list of Plaintiffs' Lawyers Trailblazers, a rare honor.

Having taught trial lawyers across the country, Bobby is also known for his dedication to improving the art of trial practice. Bobby is routinely asked to assist lawyers from across the U.S. on cases. He consults on all aspects of trial preparation and motion practice, including theme building, case framing, case messaging, and the creation of visuals for courtroom presentation and exhibits. He develops his approach through DiCello Levitt's Trial Center, where he leads focus groups, mock trials, and jury decision-making research. Bobby's work sets DiCello Levitt apart as a truly rare law firm: a plaintiffs' firm with an in-house focus group and mock trial practice that creates powerful presentations and—most importantly for our clients—meaningful verdicts.



**Daniel R. Ferri**

Partner

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**EDUCATION**

University of Illinois College of Law,  
J.D., *magna cum laude*

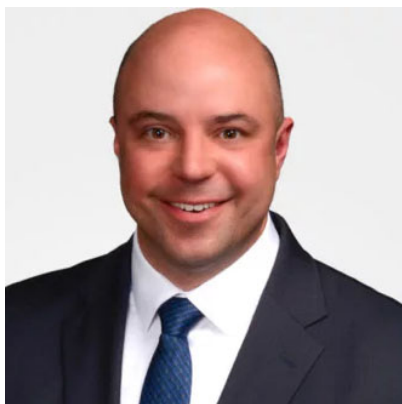
New York University, B.A., *cum laude*

Dan Ferri's litigation practice focuses on fraud, breach of contract, intellectual property theft, and antitrust claims. He has achieved tens of millions of dollars in recoveries on behalf of his individual, small business, and public clients. He works to balance the scales and prevent unscrupulous business practices from going unchecked.

Dan's recent work includes successfully representing the State of New Mexico in cases arising from Volkswagen's use of "defeat devices" to cheat emissions standards and other automakers' sales of vehicles containing dangerous Takata airbag inflators. He currently represents New Mexico in asserting consumer fraud claims for deceptive "Low T" advertising and antitrust claims involving broiler chicken price fixing.

Dan was also recently instrumental in achieving a substantial settlement for a class of consumers who purchased Toyota minivans with defective sliding doors and in obtaining certification of multiple statewide classes in a case involving an oil consumption defect in popular GM trucks and SUVs. In addition to his products liability work, Dan represents individual and small business insureds in numerous class-wide coverage disputes against their insurers.





## **Daniel R. Flynn**

### **Partner**

#### **EMAIL**

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#### **EDUCATION**

Indiana University Maurer School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*

Illinois Wesleyan University, B.A.

Dan Flynn represents governmental entities, individual consumers, and corporate clients—all with one primary goal in mind: ensuring the protection of human health and the environment. His stewardship ensures not only that polluters be held responsible for contamination and clean-up, but that corporate entities understand their responsibilities under state and federal environmental laws. As a result of his advocacy in advising corporations on compliance, Dan's clients lead their respective industries in environmental stewardship efforts under a number of rules and regulations, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Dan assists corporate entities, governmental agencies, and the public by ensuring that companies that have contaminated the environment and violated regulations take responsibility for their actions. Through contribution and cost recovery actions, common law claims, citizen suits, enforcement actions, and proper due diligence and contract negotiation, he ensures polluters and bad actors remediate the harm they have caused.

Dan is part of the DiCello Levitt team working with several states in investigating and addressing poly- and perfluoroalkyl substance ("PFAS") contamination. DiCello Levitt's PFAS team, along with other Special Assistant Attorneys General and the Illinois Attorney General, most recently filed a lawsuit against 3M for PFAS contamination from its facility in Cordova, Illinois. Cases involving these "forever chemicals" will have wide-reaching implications for state governments and their residents.

Dan also works with communities that have been impacted by years of exposure to polluted air, water, and soil. Recently, Dan and DiCello Levitt's environmental team joined with co-counsel in representing several residents and former residents of Union, Illinois in filing suit against companies responsible for polluting the groundwater with carcinogenic chlorinated solvents. Dan also serves as interim co-lead counsel in a class action on behalf of the residents of Rockton, Illinois and surrounding communities for property damages they sustained following a catastrophic fire at a local chemical factory.

In addition to his environmental work, Dan frequently counsels clients on developing and maintaining state-of-the-art safety and health programs that ensure all employees enjoy safe and healthful workplaces. He works closely with both his clients and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") to enhance employee safety and health well beyond OSHA's minimum requirements.



## **Karin Garvey**

**Partner**

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### **EDUCATION**

Northwestern University Pritzker  
School of Law, J.D.

Harvard University, A.B.

Karin E. Garvey is a partner in the New York office of DiCello Levitt and a member of the Antitrust and Competition practice group. With more than two decades of litigation experience, Karin focuses on representing businesses and public pension funds in complex antitrust class actions.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Karin was a partner of a firm focusing on securities and antitrust litigation. She brings significant experience to managing complex, multi-jurisdictional cases from initial case development through resolution and appeal. In addition to deposing top executives, Karin has also prepared and defended company executives for deposition, hearing, and trial. Karin has significant experience working with experts—including economists, regulatory experts, patent experts, medical experts, toxicologists, materials scientists, valuation experts, foreign law experts, and appraisers—developing reports and testimony, preparing for and defending depositions, and taking depositions of opponents' experts. In addition, Karin has engaged in all phases of trial preparation and trial and has briefed and argued appeals. Karin also has significant experience with arbitration and mediation.

For the first two decades of her career, Karin gained significant experience in antitrust, commercial litigation, and products liability litigation at a prominent defense firm representing and counseling clients from a wide array of industries including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, building materials, film, finance, and private equity.

Karin is recommended by *Chambers & Partners USA* and *The Legal 500* for excellence in antitrust practice. She has also been recognized by *Lawdragon* as one of the "Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers in America."





**Greg Gutzler**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

University of Michigan, J.D.

University of California – Berkeley,  
B.A.

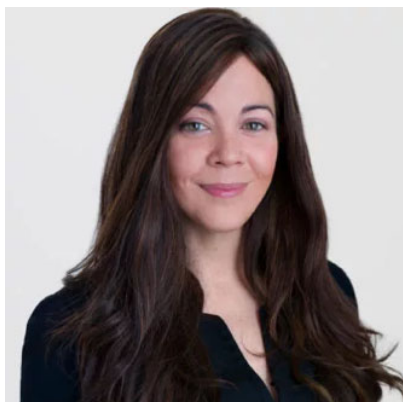
Greg Gutzler is an experienced trial lawyer with a track record of billions in recoveries in high-stakes cases. Before joining DiCello Levitt, Greg litigated extensively on both the plaintiff and defense side, including working at his own boutique firm, one of the nation's most prestigious plaintiffs' firms, and as a partner of an Am Law 100 defense firm. He is a trusted advocate chosen by clients when they need candid, creative, and aggressive approaches to business solutions and decisive litigation strategy. Greg believes that the law is more than a means to pursue justice—it is the foundation of a society in which people are free to create, thrive, and feel protected. Beliefs become action through creativity, technical excellence, knowledge, and discipline.

Greg is a go-to advocate for any type of complex commercial litigation, business disputes, whistleblower cases, and sexual abuse cases. Clients seek out Greg for his expertise in contract, ownership, and valuation disputes. Whistleblowers also rely on Greg's experience and creativity in prosecuting SEC, False Claims Act, FIRREA, IRS, and FCPA matters. Greg's practice areas focus on ensuring that innovation thrives and creates competitive marketplaces. One of his clients, a major biotechnology company, spent billions of dollars to create a groundbreaking technology. When a competitor improperly exploited his client's intellectual property, Greg led his client's suit against the competitor, tried the case in federal court, and won a jury verdict of \$1 billion in damages. This was the fourth-largest patent infringement jury verdict in U.S. history—and hammered home the point that competition, no matter how intense, must always remain fair and honorable.

Greg has litigated more than a dozen high-profile securities actions against international investment banks for misrepresentations they made to investors in connection with residential mortgage-backed securities, recovering more than \$4.5 billion. When important investments and resources are at stake, hedge funds, private equity funds, venture capitalists, individuals, companies, and governmental entities turn to Greg because he is a fearless advocate in complex lawsuits in federal and state court and arbitration.

Greg is also on the front lines in protecting women and men from sexual abuse, discrimination, and exploitation. He is lead counsel in a civil suit involving the world's largest-ever sex trafficking case, which spans six countries and fifty years of abuse. On December 10, 2021, Dateline NBC featured Greg in its revered news magazine program in an episode titled, *The Secrets of Nygard Cay*.

Greg's grasp of the nuances of common law—the influence of jurisdictions, who's on the bench, and more—converge in a simple insight: The system never dispenses justice based on predicable formulas, so legal professionals must fight to achieve justice. He views DiCello Levitt as the right firm to advance that fight for its clients, drawing on a shared vision of commitment, creativity, and loyalty.



## Amy Keller

Partner

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### EDUCATION

John Marshall Law School, J.D.  
(n/k/a The University of Illinois at  
Chicago School of Law)

University of Michigan, B.A.

Amy Keller has held leadership positions in a variety of complex litigations across the nation., where she has successfully litigated high-profile and costly data security and consumer privacy cases. As the firm's Privacy, Technology, and Cybersecurity practice chair, she is the youngest woman ever appointed to serve as co-lead class counsel in a nationwide class action. In the multidistrict litigation against Equifax related to its 2017 data breach, Amy represented nearly 150 million class members and helped to secure a \$1.5 billion settlement, working alongside federal and state regulators to impose important security practice changes to protect consumer data.

Amy has represented consumers against industry titans like Apple, Marriott, Electrolux, and BMW, securing victories against each. Her numerous other leadership positions have required sophistication in not only understanding complex legal theories, but also in presenting multifaceted strategies and damages modeling to ensure favorable results. For example, in leading a nationwide class action related to a data breach that exposed the confidential information of over 300 million individuals, Amy worked with her team to develop an argument recognized by the trial court that the loss of someone's personal information, alone, could trigger financial liability, and later secured a rare victory, certifying that case to proceed as a class action to trial. In another matter, Amy defended her team's victory all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, ensuring that consumers would be able to band together as a class when a company defrauds them for small amounts individually that are worth millions of dollars in the aggregate.

Amy is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a two-time chair of the Chicago Bar Association Class Action Committee, where she gave a number of presentations on topics impacting large-scale consumer class actions, including presentations on emerging legal issues in privacy cases. Amy serves on the Steering Group of the Sedona Conference's Working Group 11, which focuses on advancing the law on issues surrounding technology, privacy, artificial intelligence, and data security, and she is also on drafting teams for both Model Data Breach Notification Principles and Statutory Remedies and the California Consumer Privacy Act. Her work in cybersecurity and privacy has been recognized many times over—in both 2021 and 2022, she was honored as one of Benchmark Litigation's Top 250 Women in Litigation, in 2020 and 2021, she was named by *The National Law Journal* as one of the Elite Women in the Plaintiffs' Bar, and the practice group which she chairs has won Practice Group of the Year in both 2020 and 2021 by *Law360* and in 2020 by *The National Law Journal*. Amy is also recognized by Illinois Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star," and was named a "trailblazer" by *The National Law Journal*. She is also rated by Chambers & Partners.

Amy proudly holds leadership positions in both the American Association for Justice and the Public Justice Foundation, organizations which both focus on access to the courts for civil litigants.



**Matthew Perez**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

Cardozo School of Law, J.D.

Swarthmore College, B.A.

Matt represents, individuals, businesses, public pension funds, and insurers in complex antitrust class actions. His practice spans a wide range of industries but with particular focus on pharmaceuticals and financial services. He currently litigates several pay-for-delay antitrust actions on behalf of consumers and insurers alleging delayed generic entry for Opana ER, Bystolic, Sensipar, Xyrem, and Zetia. Matt previously worked for a nationally-recognized class action law firm and the New York State Office of the Attorney General Antitrust Bureau. He received the Louis J. Lefkowitz Memorial Award for his work investigating bid rigging and other illegal conduct in the municipal bond derivatives market, resulting in more than \$260 million in restitution to municipalities and nonprofit entities. He also investigated pay-for-delay matters involving multinational pharmaceutical companies.

Matt has been named a "Rising Star" by *The Legal 500*. In law school, he received the Jacob Burns Medal for Outstanding Contribution to the Law School. He was an intern for Judge Richard B. Lowe, III, in the New York Supreme Court Commercial Division.



## **Corban Rhodes**

Partner

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### **EDUCATION**

Fordham University School of Law,  
J.D., *cum laude*

Boston College, B.A., History, *magna cum laude*

Corban Rhodes litigates cybersecurity and data privacy matters on behalf of consumers. Working at the intersection of law and technology, Corban focuses on cases that involve the intentional misuse or misappropriation of consumer data and data breaches caused by negligence or malfeasance. He has served on the litigation teams of some of the country's most historic and groundbreaking data privacy cases. These include the historic \$650 million settlement in the *Facebook Biometric Information Privacy Litigation* matter; the largest consumer data privacy settlement ever in the U.S.; and the first case to claim biometric privacy rights of consumers under the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act. Corban also represented consumers in the *Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Breach Security Litigation*, which stemmed from the largest known data breach in history. He currently represents consumers in pivotal web browser privacy cases, including *Calhoun v. Google* and the *Google RTB Consumer Privacy Litigation*.

Corban also prosecutes complex securities fraud cases on behalf of institutional investors. He successfully resolved dozens of cases against some of the largest Wall Street banks in the wake of the mortgage-backed securities financial crisis, as well as some of the largest securities class actions of the last decade.



**Christopher Stombaugh**  
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**EDUCATION**

Drake University School of Law, J.D.,  
with honors

The University of Wisconsin –  
Platteville, B.A.

For more than 30 years, Chris Stombaugh has been devoted to his true passion: advancing the art and science of trial advocacy. Chris focuses on trial. He has successfully tried to verdict cases for people around the country injured by hospitals, aircraft manufacturers, insurance companies, agribusiness, construction companies, truck companies, and many other industries. His approach empowers people to tell their stories in a way that resonates with juries and has led to several record-setting, seven- and eight-figure jury verdicts.

Chris speaks regularly to state bar and trial lawyer associations nationwide on modern and effective trial advocacy and is a key member of DiCello Levitt's Trial Practice Team. In addition to his own successful practice, Chris teaches trial lawyers cognitive neuroscience to benefit their clients.

Chris is the past president of the Wisconsin Association for Justice ("WAJ"), having served as president of the WAJ 2014 term. He has been chosen as a Wisconsin Super Lawyer every year since 2010. He is an active member in a number of other trial lawyer associations. Chris is also fluent in Spanish.



**David A. Straite, CIPP/US**  
Partner

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**EDUCATION**

Villanova University School of Law,  
J.D., *magna cum laude*, Managing  
Editor, Law Review and Order of the  
Coif

Tulane University, Murphy Institute  
of Political Economy, B.A.

David is the nation's leading voice for the recognition of property rights in personal data, a 10-year effort culminating in the Ninth Circuit's landmark April 2020 decision in *In re: Facebook Internet Tracking Litigation* and the Northern District of California's March 2021 decision in *Calhoun v. Google*, both of which he argued. David also successfully argued for the extraterritorial application of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act in 2019 in *In re: Apple Device Performance Litigation*, and filed the first-ever data privacy class action under seal to address a dangerous website vulnerability under Court supervision in *Rodriguez v. Universal Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co. As M.I.T. Technology Review* magazine put it, David is "something of a pioneer" in the field. In September 2022, Law360 named him a Cybersecurity/Privacy "MVP." He also protects investors in securities, corporate governance, and hedge fund litigation in federal court and in the Delaware Court of Chancery, admitted to practice in both New York and Delaware.

David is a former adjunct professor at Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business, teaching Business Law and Ethics every fall semester from 2015-2021. He has co-authored *Dobbs Ruling Means It's Time to Rethink Data Collection* in Law360 (2022), *Google and the Digital Privacy Perfect Storm* in E-Commerce Law Reports (UK) (2013), authored *Netherlands: Amsterdam Court of Appeal Approves Groundbreaking Global Settlements Under the Dutch Act on the Collective Settlement of Mass Claims*, in The International Lawyer's annual "International Legal Developments in Review" (2009), and was a contributing author for Maher M. Dabbah & K.P.E. Lasok, QC, *Merger Control Worldwide* (2005). He speaks frequently on topics related to both privacy and investor protection.

David co-chairs the firm's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, which seeks to promote diversity within the firm and the legal profession generally. In 2022, David was also appointed to the LGBTQ Rights Committee of the New York City Bar Association, whose mission is to address "legal and policy issues in legal institutions and in the court system that affect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer individuals."

Prior to joining the firm, David was a partner with Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP, and helped launch the US offices of London-based Stewarts Law LLP before that, where he was the global head of investor protection litigation. Prior to joining the plaintiffs' bar, David was an associate with the New York office of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP.



## **John E. Tangren**

**Partner**

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### **EDUCATION**

University of Chicago Law School, J.D.  
with honors

University of Chicago, B.A. with  
honors

John Tangren has exclusively represented plaintiffs for the past decade in multistate automotive defect class actions. In addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars he's recovered for his clients, he also obtained nearly half a million dollars in sanctions for discovery misconduct in a class action involving unintended acceleration in Ford vehicles.

John's professional accomplishments are among the most impressive in the country. He has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in product defect cases, including \$600 million for property damage caused by an herbicide, \$135 million for defective heavy truck engines, and \$45 million and \$40 million in cases involving defective SUV parts, all while setting himself apart as an expert legal writer and tactician.

John has been recognized as an Illinois Super Lawyer, in the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40, and as an Emerging Lawyer by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company.

He frequently lectures on class action litigation and has presented "CAFA: 12 Years Later" to the Chicago Bar Association Class Action Committee and Strafford CLE "Class Action Litigation: Avoiding Legal Ethics Violations and Malpractice Liability."





**Robin A. van der Meulen**  
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**EDUCATION**

Brooklyn Law School, J.D.

Columbia College, Columbia  
University, A.B.

Robin A. van der Meulen is a partner in DiCello Levitt's New York office, where she represents clients in complex antitrust litigation. Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Robin was a partner in a nationally-recognized antitrust practice group, where she gained more than a decade of experience litigating a wide variety of antitrust matters, including price-fixing, monopolization, benchmark and commodities manipulation, pay-for-delay agreements, and other anticompetitive practices.

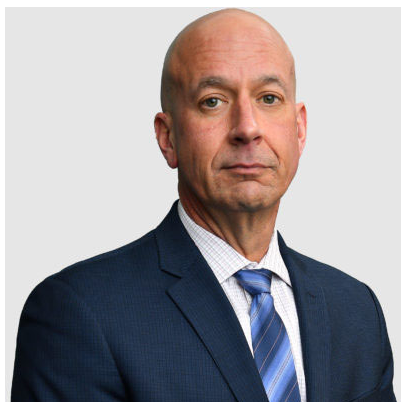
Robin was appointed co-lead class counsel for end-payor plaintiffs in the *Bystolic Antitrust Litigation*, a pay-for-delay case pending in the Southern District of New York. She is also leading *Novartis and Par Antitrust Litigation*, another pay-for-delay case seeking to recover millions of dollars in overcharges relating to the hypertension drug Exforge on behalf of end-payor plaintiffs. Robin also represents end-payor plaintiffs in the *Generic Pharmaceuticals Pricing Antitrust Litigation*, a massive case against some of the biggest drug companies in the world alleging price-fixing and anticompetitive conspiracies.

Robin was previously an associate at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, where she practiced antitrust and commercial litigation. She also served as a judicial intern in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York for Judge Elizabeth S. Stong.

*Euromoney's* Women in Business Law Awards selected Robin as a finalist for Antitrust and Competition Lawyer of the Year. *The Legal 500* recommends Robin for excellence in the field of Antitrust Civil Litigation and Class Actions, describing her as "persistent, persuasive, and well-respected by peers and opponents alike" and naming her a "Next Generation Partner." She has been recognized as "Up and Coming" by *Chambers & Partners USA* and as a "Future Star" by *Benchmark Litigation*. She has also been selected to *Benchmark's* "40 & Under Hot List" as one of "the best and brightest law firm partners" and someone who is "ready to take the reins." Additionally, Robin was recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America®* in the Antitrust Law category.

Robin is an active member of the antitrust bar. She is the secretary and a member of the Executive Committee of the Antitrust Law Section of the New York State Bar Association ("NYSBA"), and a member of NYSBA House of Delegates. Robin is also a Vice Chair of the Insurance and Financial Services Committee of the Antitrust Section of the American Bar Association ("ABA"). Robin was previously a Vice Chair of the Antitrust Section's Health Care & Pharmaceutical Committee of the ABA and the Executive Editor of that Committee's Antitrust Health Care Chronicle. From 2012 to 2021, Robin was an editor of the Health Care Antitrust Week-In-Review, a weekly publication that summarizes antitrust news in the health care industry.





**Chuck Dender**  
Senior Counsel

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**EDUCATION**

Cornell Law School, J.D.

NYU Stern School of Business, MBA

Temple University, B.A.

Chuck Dender is an experienced litigator who has practiced at two of the country's largest law firms. With a demonstrable record of excellence and a track record of success for his clients, the foundation of Chuck's broad litigation experience was formed while defending some of the most significant commercial litigation matters in the U.S. over the last two-plus decades. While Chuck began his litigation career on the defense side of the table, he is a plaintiffs' attorney at heart. He now represents plaintiffs exclusively. With a background that includes membership in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chuck has personally experienced what it's like to be a plaintiff in need of outstanding legal representation.

Chuck's legal expertise is enhanced by his MBA, with a specialization in finance and quantitative finance from the New York University Stern School of Business. This additional accreditation and education gives Chuck a unique advantage when it comes to identifying issues related to financial crimes and damages issues, including working with economists and other expert witnesses. As proof of this point, Chuck played a key role in presenting the damages model of one of the largest financial institutions in the world after the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holding, Inc.

Chuck represents aggrieved investors (both individuals and entities) in all aspects of complex litigation against players in the financial services industry, as well as other public and private companies. He also represents whistleblowers who cooperate with government agencies in their efforts to shine the light on corporate malfeasance.

In whistleblower matters, Chuck has a keen understanding of both the types of information that government agencies are looking for and the best methods for presenting that information to the agencies so they can act and wield justice from corporate wrongdoers. Chuck has authored compelling whistleblower submissions on behalf of both corporate insiders and interested outsiders. He has the good fortune of learning this complicated dance under the tutelage of the principal architect of the Security and Exchange Commission's Whistleblower Program. Chuck has also presented whistleblowers and supporting witnesses in front of the highest-ranking members of the SEC's Whistleblower Program during multiple-day interviews.

Chuck is experienced in a wide range of legal disciplines, with a specific focus representing clients in litigation involving the financial services industry or any matter where the calculation and presentation of damages is anything but a run-of-the-mill issue.



**Nada Djordjevic**  
Senior Counsel

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**EDUCATION**

University of Illinois College of Law,  
J.D., *summa cum laude*, Order of the  
Coif

Grinnell College, B.A.

Nada Djordjevic brings justice for those who are harmed by consumer fraud, unfair business practices, data privacy breaches, deceptive insurance sales practices, and other egregious acts. With more than two decades of experience representing plaintiffs in class actions and complex commercial litigations, Nada zealously protects the interests of aggrieved clients throughout the United States.

From individuals or groups of consumers to businesses of all sizes, including national and multinational corporations, Nada's clients benefit from her skilled and varied litigation practice. In addition to consumer protection and class actions, she represents clients in issues related to securities fraud, ERISA violations, deceptive insurance sales practices, and *qui tam* cases under the False Claims Act.

Nada's litigation successes include a \$25 million settlement on behalf of 800,000 people in a class action lawsuit. The action involved claims of violations of state consumer protection and deceptive practices laws against a major athletics event organizer. She also represented a multi-state plaintiff class in a data breach case that resulted in one of the largest breach-related settlements in healthcare. Nada was also part of the litigation team that negotiated settlements worth more than \$275 million for universal life insurance policy holders in two nationwide class actions alleging improper monthly policy charges.



**Robert J. DiCello**  
Of Counsel

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**EDUCATION**

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, J.D.

John Carroll University, B.A., *magna cum laude*

A co-founder of one of DiCello Levitt's predecessor firms, Robert J. DiCello has amassed more than 45 years of professional experience and an extensive list of seven- and eight-figure recoveries for victims of injustice. He has deep experience in a wide range of class actions, personal injury cases, complex mass torts, and probate matters. Over his long and successful career, he has won multiple appeals before the Ohio Supreme Court.

Robert put himself through Cleveland-Marshall College of Law while working as a safety director at U.S. Steel Corp. While in law school, he was selected to join the *Cleveland-Marshall Law Review*. He began his legal career as an assistant prosecutor in the Lake County Prosecutor's Office and later become President of the Lake County Bar Association. He formed his own firm in 1978, managing it with great success over nearly 40 years until its members founded DiCello Levitt.



**Mark S. Hamill**  
Senior Counsel

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**EDUCATION**

Northwestern University Pritzker  
School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*

Washington & Jefferson College, B.A.

Mark Hamill concentrates his practice on commercial, antitrust, securities, and consumer cases, often taking a lead role with expert witnesses on finance, accounting, and economic topics. He also serves as eDiscovery counsel in many of his cases, leveraging his depth of experience in this area as an attorney and as an eDiscovery project manager having served Fortune 500 and major accounting firm clients in large-scale, high-intensity projects.

Mark represents companies, investors, and consumers in a variety of industries as they grapple with the financial and business impacts of unfair trade practices, business torts, oppression, securities fraud, and consumer fraud. He has worked with highly-regarded business valuation experts and economists to develop and present compelling business and damages models in emerging industries.

Mark brings an interdisciplinary perspective to his cases, based on his experience as a CPA and consultant, which allows him to develop a “no surprises” record for trial. Mark is also a U.S. Army veteran, where he served on a multinational peacekeeping force in Sinai, Egypt.



## **Laura Reasons**

### **Senior Counsel**

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#### **EDUCATION**

Chicago-Kent College of Law, J.D.,  
Highest Honors

Washington University, St. Louis,  
MO, B.A.

Laura Reasons leads the firm's labor and employment law practice group where she focuses on wage and hour class and collective actions across the country. She also serves as DiCello Levitt's Associate General Counsel for Employment Matters. Over the past decade, Laura has litigated the spectrum of employment law claims, including in class, collective, and systemic litigation. She previously counseled clients—from small businesses through Fortune 100 companies—on wage and hour compliance, discrimination claim avoidance, and day-to-day employment issues.

Laura's passion for representing individuals has also translated into a strong *pro bono* resume. Her *pro bono* clients include an incarcerated individual, asylum seekers, transgender individuals seeking to change their legal names and gender markers, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") applicants. Laura was a Public Interest Law Initiative Fellow at the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic in Cook County, Illinois, working for more than ten years to represent clients seeking protective orders.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Laura was part of the labor and employment practice group of an international, management-side law firm, where she defended some of the largest companies in the United States in employment law cases, including in high-stakes class and collective litigation. She brings that experience, combined with her passion for service and representing individuals, to the firm. While in law school, Laura served as a judicial extern to the Honorable George W. Lindberg of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.



**Justin S. Abbarno**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

The Ohio State University Moritz  
College of Law, J.D.

The University of Dayton, B.A.,  
*summa cum laude*

Justin Abbarno is an aggressive, creative, results-oriented trial lawyer whose practice focuses primarily on medical negligence, personal injury, and sexual assault cases. He is steadfast in his devotion to seeking justice and works to hold individuals and businesses accountable for the harms that his clients have suffered.

During law school, Justin was a key member of The Ohio State University's award-winning Moritz College of Law's Mock Trial Team. He also received the Michael F. Colley Award, as a top mock trial performer in the 2020 graduating class and was named "Best Attorney" during the 2019 Ohio Attorney General's Mock Trial Competition. Prior to law school, Justin graduated from the University of Dayton ("UD"), *summa cum laude*, where he was elected to serve the undergraduate student body as a Representative for the UD Student Government Association. Justin was also a member of UD's NCAA Division 1 FCS Football program and was named to the Pioneer Football League's All-Academic Team.



**Veronica Bosco**

Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Fordham University School of Law,  
J.D.

Fordham University, B.A.

Veronica Bosco is an associate in DiCello Levitt's New York office. She is a member of the firm's Antitrust and Competition practice group and focuses on litigating complex antitrust class actions on behalf of institutional investors, businesses, and consumers.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Veronica was an associate in a nationally-recognized competition and antitrust litigation group, where she represented a wide variety of plaintiffs in various federal jurisdictions, including both indirect and direct purchasers, public benefit funds, and individuals. She represented institutional investors in an international antitrust litigation filed against financial institutions for collusion and price-fixing, direct purchasers in national antitrust class actions filed against large corporations, and employees in national no-poach actions.

Veronica has also previously represented businesses in opt-out litigation proceedings alleging restraint of trade in violation of antitrust laws, institutional investors in federal securities law matters, and consumers in product liability matters. She also served as a Judicial Law Clerk for Judge Claire C. Cecchi in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, where she drafted judicial opinions in several types of cases, including antitrust and ERISA cases.



**Jonathan Crevier**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law,  
J.D., *cum laude*

New York University, B.A., *magna cum laude*

Jonathan Crevier is an associate in DiCello Levitt's New York office. Jonathan prosecutes complex antitrust class actions on behalf of institutional investors, businesses, and consumers. He actively litigates cases against a number of the world's largest companies in antitrust matters involving alleged price-fixing, benchmark and commodities manipulation, pay-for-delay, and other anticompetitive practices.

Prior to joining the firm, Jonathan was an associate in a nationally-recognized competition and antitrust litigation group, where he represented plaintiffs in complex antitrust matters. He also previously served as a Judicial Intern for the Honorable Henry Pitman, U.S.M.J., in the District Court for the Southern District of New York.





**Sharon Cruz, CIPP/US**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Indiana University Robert H.  
McKinney School of Law, J.D.

Indiana University-Purdue  
University at Indianapolis, B.A.

Sharon Cruz is a seasoned criminal prosecutor and investigator specializing in privacy compliance, data management, and cybercrimes. She has issued and enforced hundreds of subpoenas to Facebook, Google, and other major corporations in her cybercriminal investigations. Her expertise in prosecuting Internet crimes is buttressed by years of experience in the tech field, helping her educate stakeholders, law enforcement officers, and healthcare providers on cyber safety, blockchain technology, and the dark web.

In her previous position as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois's High Tech Crimes Bureau, Sharon played a pivotal role in task forces aimed at combatting human trafficking. She has prosecuted numerous child sexual exploitation cases and argued precedent-setting points of tech privacy law as it intersects with criminal activity. As a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, she tried hundreds of assault, sexual assault, theft, and DUI trials to verdict as first chair.

Sharon's portfolio of expertise also includes prosecuting environmental crimes. As Lead Counsel for Illinois in two state environmental investigations, she secured substantial fines for the State and Illinois citizens.

Sharon has delivered multiple presentations on cybersecurity and technology, including CCPA and Why You Care About It (2017 & 2018) and Legal Issues in Internet Crimes Against Children: ICAC Investigative Techniques (2017-2019).



**Joseph Frate**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law, J.D.

Ohio University, B.A., *cum laude*

Joe Frate's compassion, diligence, and effective communication result in successful case outcomes for his clients.

Joe received his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. During his time at Case Western, he was a member of the Milton Kramer Health and Human Trafficking Law Clinic, where he represented and assisted disenfranchised citizens in receiving Social Security benefits and criminal record expungements. Joe was also named to the Dean's list during his time at Case Western.

Prior to law school, Joe graduated from Ohio University, *cum laude*, where he was elected to serve as Commissioner for off-campus students for the University's Student Senate.



## **Allison Griffith**

### **Associate**

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#### **EDUCATION**

The University of Alabama School of Law, J.D.

The University of Alabama, B.A.

Allison represents individuals and public entities who have suffered significant financial or personal harm due to wrongful conduct. Before joining DiCello Levitt, Allison worked for a regional defense firm, representing individuals and businesses in diverse civil litigation matters, including premises liability, construction, transportation, products liability, and insurance coverage. In her previous role, she gained experience and proficiency at eliciting favorable testimony from friendly and adverse parties.

Allison obtained her law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The University of Alabama. While attending the University of Alabama School of Law, she served as a Senior Editor of *The Journal of the Legal Profession* and was a valued member of the John A. Campbell Moot Court Board. She also took part in the Public Interest Student Board, preparing tax returns for low-income families through the AmeriCorps SaveFirst program and mentoring children through Raise the Bar. For her efforts throughout law school, she received the Order of the Samaritan Award, the Dean's Community Service Award, and the Student Pro Bono Award.

Allison was also a member of the University of Alabama School of Law's Mediation Clinic. In that role, she served as the lead mediator on an array of family court matters, including divorce, child support, visitation, alimony, and property distribution. She is now a registered mediator with the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution. Allison also serves on the Birmingham Bar Association Young Lawyers Executive Committee.



**Cassandra Hadwen**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois  
Institute of Technology, J.D.

University of Illinois at Chicago, B.A.

Cassandra represents governmental entities, individual consumers, and corporate clients with a focus on protecting human health and the environment. She is a lifelong environmentalist with a passion for ensuring the protection of natural resources and access to a safe environment for all. Cassandra has experience with numerous environmental statutes and regulations, including the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"); the Endangered Species Act; and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

As a law student, Cassandra was an Executive Board member of Chicago-Kent's Student Humanitarian Network and The Women in Law Society, received the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund Environmental and Energy Law Fellow Scholarship, and was Managing Editor of the *Chicago-Kent Journal of Environmental and Energy Law*. Cassandra also participated in the environmental and energy law clinic, where she assisted on cases concerning urban environmental issues, including coal-fired power plant retirement and remediation and coal ash contamination in Chicago. Cassandra additionally received CALI Awards for achieving the highest grade in Environmental Law and Policy I, Environmental Law and Policy II, and Legal Writing for Environmental Law.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Cassandra completed a fellowship representing Chicago-area environmental justice nonprofit organizations in complex equity, sustainability, and environmental and energy regulatory matters, including coal ash, PFAS, and the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Her focus at DiCello Levitt remains the same: ensuring that people of all backgrounds are afforded appropriate environmental protections and access to a safe and healthful environment.



**Eli Hare**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Tulane University School of Law

University of Alabama, University  
Honors College, *cum laude*

Eli Hare is a trial lawyer with experience litigating complex commercial, environmental, and white-collar criminal cases, Jones Act admiralty claims, and financial services matters in state and federal courts across the southeast. Eli represents individuals, businesses, and municipalities and has represented public entities in complex litigation involving multi-billion dollar contractual disputes.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Eli worked with a prominent national plaintiff's firm where he represented individuals injured by wrongful conduct, environmental contamination, and civil right abuses. He also previously worked at a large regional defense firm where he represented businesses, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations through all stages of litigation. Prior to commencing his legal practice, Eli served as a judicial extern to a federal judge in the Northern District of Alabama.



**Justin J. Hawal**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Cleveland Marshall College of Law, J.D.,  
*cum laude*

Saint Louis University, B.A., *cum laude*

Justin Hawal's work spans a broad range of practice areas, with special expertise in complex catastrophic injury, civil rights abuse, mass tort, and class action litigations.

Justin's practice also encompasses police misconduct, human trafficking, and sex abuse. He currently represents dozens of women in the largest international sex trafficking lawsuit in U.S. history against Peter Nygard and his companies. Justin was integral to the consumer plaintiffs' success in the Equifax data breach multidistrict litigation, the largest consumer data breach settlement in U.S. history.

Justin was recently one of only 40 attorneys nationwide to be named a 2021 *National Law Journal* "Elite Trial Lawyers: Rising Star." Justin was also awarded *Public Justice's* 2021 "Trial Lawyer of the Year" for his work on the trial team in *Black v. Hicks*, a groundbreaking civil rights case involving shocking police misconduct and resulting in a \$50 million jury award. During law school, Justin was selected as a member of the Cleveland State Law Review and published a scholarly article regarding independent tort actions for spoliation of evidence under Ohio law. He was also an active member of the civil litigation clinic, through which he represented an asylum-seeking immigrant from Honduras fleeing gang violence.



**Joshua J. Lax**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law,  
J.D.

Syracuse University, B.A., *phi beta  
kappa*

Growing up, Joshua Lax had a strong sense of fairness and justice that he carried into his legal career. From a young age, he heard stories about his family's experience with persecution. Learning that terrible history fueled his commitment to fighting abuse by those who take advantage of fellow human beings.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Joshua served as a senior counsel and trial specialist to the Special Federal Litigation Division of the New York City Law Department. The *New York Times* described the Division as an elite group of attorneys defending the City of New York and its employees. Joshua handled some of the most high-profile federal civil rights cases involving the City, including highly publicized trials where his words of advocacy before juries were quoted in the media. His cases stemmed from fatal shootings, wrongful death claims, reversed convictions, mental illness treatment, First Amendment claims, unlawful wiretapping, and proposed class actions. Department leaders called on Joshua to serve as an instructor for trial advocacy, deposition and mediation trainings, and continuing legal education programs because of his extensive experience.

Joshua began his career as a criminal defense attorney at a prominent firm in northern New Jersey.

In total, Joshua has completed 31 civil trials, in addition to five criminal trials in private practice. These experiences taught Joshua what it takes to develop cases that achieve the results clients seek. He has prepared hundreds of clients for testimony and holds rare and unique insights that help clients through the litigation process.

Joshua is an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School, where he teaches Fundamental Lawyering Skills, a course educating the next generation of America's lawyers in interviewing and counseling clients and negotiation. He is a member of the Federal Bar Council Inn of Court, where he helps present continuing legal education programs. He is also a member of the Federal Bar Counsel Civil Rights Committee.

While earning his law degree at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Joshua was a member of the *Cardozo Journal of International and Comparative Law*, the recipient of the Squadron Fellowship in Law, Media, and Society and a member of the Prosecutor Practicum.



**Michelle Locascio**

Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Chicago-Kent College of Law, J.D.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.A.

Michelle diligently works to protect consumers and individuals wronged by the malfeasance of big businesses and corporations. With her background in psychology, she is uniquely equipped to understand the needs of her clients because of her ability to actively listen, effectively communicate, and design creative legal strategies in the pursuit of justice.

Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Michelle served as a Judicial Extern in the Circuit Court of Cook County, where she worked on a wide array of commercial matters. During law school, Michelle served as Executive Articles Editor for the *Chicago-Kent Law Review* and as a Legal Writing Teaching Assistant for first-year students. Michelle was also a member of Chicago-Kent's top-ranked Moot Court Honor Society, where she finished as a finalist in the 2020 National Health Law Moot Court Competition. Michelle additionally received a CALI Award for achieving the highest grade in Constitutional Torts and was named to the Dean's List during her time at Chicago-Kent.

Prior to law school, Michelle graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Criminal Justice.





**Adam Prom**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

The University of Texas School of Law,  
J.D.

Marquette University, B.A., *magna  
cum laude*

Adam Prom is an experienced litigator who represents clients in federal and state litigations and arbitrations across the United States. He has litigated a wide variety of class action and other complex litigation cases, including product liability, consumer protection, privacy, False Claims Act *qui tam*, Employee Retirement Income Security Act, securities, and other statutory claims.

He has represented individuals, small and large businesses, and public entities that have been harmed by others' unscrupulous business practices, routinely taking cases from inception through trial and settlement. Beyond his class action work and trial experience, Adam has successfully recovered settlements for individual consumers in arbitration, and he led and won a multi-day arbitration on behalf of a Chicago business against a multi-billion dollar group of trusts.

Adam has demonstrated a commitment to serving underrepresented communities, having volunteered with the Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee and also as a mentor for high school students at the Legal Prep Charter Academy, an open-enrollment public high school in Chicago. Adam has also worked with Justice Defenders, a registered UK charity and U.S. nonprofit, working to provide legal education, training, and practice to African prisoners denied due process.



## **William J. Sinor**

Associate

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### **EDUCATION**

Florida State University College of Law, J.D.

Auburn University, B.A.

William J. Sinor represents individuals who have been hurt or wronged by the misconduct of others and has a strong dedication to achieving justice for his clients. Prior to joining DiCello Levitt, Wil worked for a plaintiff's firm in the Birmingham area where he gained substantial litigation and trial experience representing clients in personal injury matters. He also has experience in matters involving insurance bad faith, breach of contract, wrongful death, and wrongful termination.

As a plaintiff's attorney for the majority of his career, Wil is committed to working closely with clients through every step of the litigation process, from intake to trial. Wil provides legal representation that is tailored to each client's unique situation.

While attending Florida State University College of Law, Wil served as a student attorney in the Public Interest Law Center, representing indigent clients in an array of matters. He was also a recipient of the school's Distinguished Pro Bono Award and served as a Student Ambassador for the College of Law.

Wil was born in Alabama, but raised in Costa Rica and the suburbs of Atlanta and Chicago. In his free time, Wil enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, exercising, and traveling.



**Anna Claire Skinner**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

Vanderbilt University Law School, J.D.,  
Order of the Coif

Washington and Lee University,  
B.A., *cum laude*

Anna Claire represents governmental entities, individual consumers, and corporate clients with the primary purpose of the protection of human health and the environment. She has litigated cases in both administrative tribunals and state and federal court from inception through settlement and trial. She has experience with numerous environmental statutes and regulations, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Anna Claire is part of the DiCello Levitt team working with several states in investigating and addressing poly- and perfluoroalkyl substance (“PFAS”) contamination. DiCello Levitt’s PFAS team, along with other Special Assistant Attorneys General and the Illinois Attorney General, most recently filed a lawsuit against 3M for PFAS contamination from its facility in Cordova, Illinois. Cases involving these “forever chemicals” will have wide-reaching implications for state governments and their residents.

Anna Claire also works with communities that have been impacted by years of exposure to polluted air, water, and soil. Recently, Anna Claire and DiCello Levitt’s environmental team joined with co-counsel in representing several residents and former residents of Union, Illinois in filing suit against companies responsible for polluting the groundwater with carcinogenic chlorinated solvents. Anna Claire is also part of the team leading a class action on behalf of the residents of Rockton, Illinois and surrounding communities for property damages they sustained following a catastrophic fire at a local chemical factory.

In addition to her environmental work, Anna Claire also helps clients develop and maintain safety and health programs that meet all of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s regulatory requirements and ensure all employees enjoy safe and healthful workplaces. She regularly counsels clients when compliance and litigation questions arise under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Outside of the office, Anna Claire continues her work on environmental-related issues by serving as co-chair of the Kentucky Bar Association’s Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources section. She also focuses on giving back to her community through her participation on the executive committee of the Living Arts and Science Center Board of Directors.



## **Peter Soldato**

### **Associate**

#### **EMAIL**

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#### **EDUCATION**

University of Chicago Law School, J.D.

Butler University, B.A.

A steadfast trial lawyer, Peter has extensive experience advocating for clients in high-stakes courtroom settings. He began his career in the public sector, prosecuting cases on behalf of the government, and then representing individuals against the government. He leverages this experience—having tried more than 35 cases to a jury—in order to protect the interests of individuals, businesses, and public entities in a wide range of disputes.

Peter prides himself on applying the most advanced methods of trial advocacy in arguing a client's case to judge or jury. As a graduate of the Trial Lawyer's College, Peter employs focus group analysis and an in-depth understanding of cognitive neuroscience in advocating effectively on behalf of clients.

Outside of the office, Peter dedicates his time teaching the art of trial advocacy and communication to future generations of trial lawyers, working previously with the Indiana Bar Foundation, and now the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education.



## **James Ulwick**

Associate

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### **EDUCATION**

Loyola University Chicago, J.D., *cum laude*

Kenyon College, B.A.

James Ulwick is an associate in DiCello Levitt's Chicago office with experience litigating complex commercial cases and actions involving serious injuries. He represents individuals, businesses, and public entities in a wide range of disputes, protecting their interests in state and federal courts across the country.

Prior to joining the firm, James was an insurance defense attorney, representing individuals, corporations, and local municipalities through all stages of litigation.

He has successfully argued for the dismissal of several suits, including their subsequent appeals in multiple state courts of appeal, and has successfully obtained favorable resolutions for his clients through dispositive motions, mediation, and settlement. While this experience was valuable, James joined the firm because he wanted to pivot his focus from defending insurance companies to protecting consumers and those injured by corporate malfeasance.

Outside of the office, James has focused on assisting in the development of the next generation of trial and appellate litigators by coaching the Loyola University Chicago National Health Law Moot Court Team.



**Elizabeth Paige White**  
Associate

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**EDUCATION**

University of Florida, Levin College of Law, J.D.

Temple University, B.A.

Paige White's practice currently focuses on civil rights, police brutality, and wrongful death cases. Paige began her career in public service, working as a public defender at the Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem in New York City where she handled hundreds of charges from felony narcotics to violent crimes. She later joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, defending adults and juveniles on serious felony cases, including violent sexual assault and homicide. While working for the Public Defender, she successfully argued a series of writs of habeas corpus over the conditions at the D.C. Central Detention Facility, which subsequently lead to a number of individuals being immediately released.

Paige is the current President of the Young Lawyer's Division of the Bar Association for D.C. and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Trial Lawyers for the District of Columbia, and the National Bar Association. She earned her J.D. from the University of Florida's Frederic C. Levin College of Law, where she was the only woman that year to be included in the UF Trial team's "Final Four." During law school, she interned for Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, for whom she created a national campaign to support the kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls. Paige holds a Bachelor's degree from Temple University in political science and sociology with a Spanish minor.

Paige is also honored to serve as Of Counsel to attorney Ben Crump and his law firm Ben Crump Law PLLC.



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# EXHIBIT 4

JOINT DECLARATION OF CLASS COUNSEL IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE  
SETTLEMENT, APPROVAL OF FORM AND MANNER OF  
NOTICE, APPROVAL TO NOTICE THE CLASSES, AND SETTING  
FINAL SETTLEMENT SCHEDULE AND DATE FOR FINAL  
APPROVAL HEARING PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 23(e)(1)

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)



**Milberg.**  
COLEMAN BRYSON PHILLIPS GROSSMAN

# Who We Are

Established by members of Milberg Phillips Grossman LLP, Sanders Phillips Grossman LLC, Greg Coleman Law PC, and Whitfield Bryson LLP, the firm represents plaintiffs in the areas of antitrust, securities, financial fraud, consumer protection, automobile emissions claims, defective drugs and devices, environmental litigation, financial and insurance litigation, and cyber law and security.

For over 50 years, Milberg and its affiliates have been protecting victims' rights and have recovered over \$50 billion for our clients. Our attorneys possess a renowned depth of legal expertise, employ the highest ethical and legal standards, and pride ourselves on providing stellar client service. We have repeatedly been recognized as leaders in the plaintiffs' bar and appointed to leadership roles in prominent national mass torts and class actions.

*Milberg challenges corporate wrongdoing through class action, mass tort, consumer, and shareholder rights services, both domestically and globally.*

Milberg's previous litigation efforts helped to create a new era of corporate accountability that put big companies on notice. The strategic combination of four leading plaintiffs' firms offers clients expanded capabilities, greater geographical coverage, enhanced financial breadth, and increased operational capacity. It also enables the firm to serve diverse and global clients who are seeking to enforce their rights against well-financed corporations—wherever they operate.

[www.milberg.com](http://www.milberg.com)



# Practice Areas

## **Antitrust & Competition Law**

Today, on a global scale, consolidated corporate entities exercise dominating market power, but proper enforcement of antitrust law ensures a fair, competitive marketplace. Milberg prosecutes complex antitrust class actions against large, well-funded corporate defendants in healthcare, technology, agriculture, and manufacturing. Our leading practitioners successfully represent plaintiffs affected by price-fixing, monopolization, monopoly leveraging tying arrangements, exclusive dealing, and refusals to deal. The firm continues aggressively vindicating rights of plaintiffs victimized by antitrust violations, holding companies accountable for anticompetitive behavior.

## **Complex Litigation**

With 50 years of vetted success, Milberg handles complex, high-stakes cases at any stage of the litigation process. Our attorneys have experience litigating complex cases for business and plaintiffs outside of class action context, business torts, contract disputes, anti-SLAPP motions, corporations, LLCs, partnerships, real estate, and intellectual property. The repeated success of our attorneys against well-funded adversaries with top-tier counsel has established Milberg as the go-to firm for complex litigation.

## **Consumer Products**

Milberg's consumer litigation group focuses on protecting victims of deceptive marketing and advertising of goods and services, or those who have bought defective products. Our attorneys are experienced in handling a wide array of consumer protection lawsuits, including breach of contract, failure to warn, false or deceptive advertising of goods and services, faulty, dangerous, or defective products, warranty claims, unfair trade practices, and notable product cases. Milberg has achieved real-world recoveries for clients, often requiring corporations to change the way they do business. Our team of attorneys has extensive experience representing plaintiffs against well-resourced and sophisticated defendants.

## **Consumer Services**

Consumers have rights, and companies providing consumer services have a legal obligation to abide by contractual agreements made with customers. Companies must also follow state and federal laws that prohibit predatory, deceptive, and unscrupulous business practices. Milberg's Consumer Services litigation group protects consumers whose rights have been violated by improperly charged fees, predatory and discriminatory lending, illegal credit reporting practices, and invasion of privacy. We also enforce consumer rights by upholding The Fair Credit Reporting Act and Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

### **Class Action Lawsuits**

Milberg pioneered federal class action litigation and is recognized as a leader in defending the rights of victims of corporate and large-scale wrongdoings. We have the manpower, resources, technology, and experience necessary to provide effective representation in nationwide class action lawsuits. Our attorneys have led class actions resulting in settlements up to billions of dollars across a variety of practice areas, including defective consumer products, pharmaceutical drugs, insurance, securities, antitrust, environmental and toxic torts, consumer protection, and breach of contract.

### **Dangerous Drugs & Devices**

For some patients, medication and medical devices improve their lives. For others, the drugs and equipment have questionable benefits, at best, and serious, unintended side effects at worst. Taking on drug and device makers requires a law firm that can stand up to the world's largest, most powerful companies. Our defective drug lawyers have held leadership roles in many national drug and device litigations, recovering billions of dollars in compensation.

### **Data Breach, Cyber Security & Biometric Data Lawsuits**

Technology changes faster than laws regulate it. Staying ahead of legal technical issues requires a law firm that can see the full picture of innovation and apply past lessons to navigate fast-moving developments, putting consumers ahead of corporate interests. Our data breach and privacy lawyers work at the cutting edge of technology and law, creating meaningful checks and balances against technology and the companies that wield it. Cyber security threats continue evolving and posing new consumer risks. Milberg will be there every step of the way to protect consumer privacy and hold big companies accountable.

### **Environmental and Toxic Torts Litigation**

Litigation is key in fighting to preserve healthy ecosystems and hold environmental lawbreakers accountable. But in today's globalized world, pollutants—and polluters—are not always local. Corporations have expanded their reach and ability to cause harm. Our environmental litigation practice focuses on representing clients in mass torts, class actions, multi-district litigation, regulatory enforcement, citizen suits, and other complex environmental and toxic tort matters. The companies involved in harmful environmental practices are large, wealthy, and globally influential, but as an internationally recognized plaintiffs' firm, Milberg has the strength and resources to present clients seeking to enforce their environmental rights against well-financed corporations—wherever they operate.

### **Finance & Insurance Litigation**

Big banks and public insurance firms are obligated by their corporate charters to put shareholders' interests ahead of client interests. However, that doesn't mean they can deceive clients to profit at their expense. Milberg's attorneys handle hundreds of insurance-related disputes, including first party bad faith insurance cases, business interruption cases, and hurricane insurance cases. As one of the nation's top class action law firms, we are well-positioned to pursue insurance bad faith cases on a statewide or nationwide basis.

### **Public Client Representation**

The ability of governments to serve and protect their residents is often threatened by the combination of lower revenues and rising costs. Budget shortfalls are increasing in part because private companies externalize costs, but while corporate profits grow, public interest pays the price. Effectuating meaningful change through litigation, Milberg partners with state and local governments to address the harms facing its residents. Internationally, Milberg's Public Client Practice has achieved success against global powerhouse corporations, including drug, tobacco, mining, and oil and gas companies.

### **Securities Litigation**

Over 50 years ago, Milberg pioneered litigation claims involving investment products, securities, and the banking industry by using class action lawsuits. Our litigation set the standard for case theories, organization, discovery, methods of settlement, and amounts recovered for clients. Milberg continues to aggressively pursue these cases on behalf of institutional and individual investors harmed by financial wrongdoing. Inventors of securities class actions, Milberg has decades of experience holding companies accountable both in the United States and globally.

### **Whistleblower & Qui Tam**

Blowing the whistle on illegal or unethical conducted is a form of legally protected speech. Milberg's whistleblower attorneys have led actions that returned hundreds of millions of dollars in ill-gotten gains, resulting in significant awards of our clients. Our legacy of standing up to corporate power extends to advocating for greater transparency. In addition to representing whistleblowers, we fight back against corporate-backed laws seeking to deter them from making disclosures.

***“Scoring impressive victories against companies guilty of outrageous behavior.”***

**- Forbes**

***“ A powerhouse that compelled miscreant and recalcitrant businesses to pay billions of dollars to aggrieved shareholders and customers”***

**- New York Times**

## Recent Leadership Roles

In re **Google Play** Consumer Antitrust Litigation, 20-CV-05761 (N.D. Cal.)

In re: **Elmiron** (Pentosan Polysulfate Sodium) Products Liability Litigation MDL No. 2973

In re: **Johnson & Johnson** Talcum Powder Products Marketing, Sales Practices & Products Liability Litigation

In re: **Blackbaud** Data Privacy MDL No. 2972

In re: **Paragard** IUD Products Liability Litigation MDL No. 2974

*“Feared by corporate America.”*

- Forbes

## Notable Recoveries

**\$3.2 Billion Settlement** – In re Tyco International Ltd., Securities Litigation, MDL 1335 (D.N.H.)

**\$4 Billion Settlement** – In re Prudential Insurance Co. Sales Practice Litigation, No. 95-4704 (D.N.J.)

**\$1.14 Billion Settlement** – In re Nortel Networks Corp. Securities Litigation, No. 01-1855 (S.D.N.Y.)

**\$1 Billion-plus Trial Verdict** – Vivendi Universal, S.A. Securities Litigation

**\$1 Billion Settlement** – NASDAQ Market-Makers Antitrust Litigation

**\$1 Billion Settlement** – W.R. Grace & Co

**\$1 Billion-plus Settlement** – Merck & Co., Inc. Securities Litigation

**\$775 Million Settlement** – Washington Public Power Supply System Securities Litigation

# Locations

## **CHICAGO**

221 W. Monroe Street Suite, Suite 2100  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

## **NEW JERSEY**

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Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

## **NEW YORK**

100 Garden City Plaza  
Garden City, NY 11530

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

900 W. Morgan Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

## **PUERTO RICO**

1311 Avenida Juan Ponce de León  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00907

## **SEATTLE**

1420 Fifth Ave, Suite 2200  
Seattle, Washington 98101

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

825 Lowcountry Blvd, Suite 101  
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

## **TENNESSEE**

800 S. Gay Street, Suite 1100  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37929

518 Monroe Street

Nashville, Tennessee 37208

## **WASHINGTON D.C.**

5335 Wisconsin Avenue NW , Suite 440  
Washington, D.C., 20015





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# EXHIBIT 5

JOINT DECLARATION OF CLASS COUNSEL IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE  
SETTLEMENT, APPROVAL OF FORM AND MANNER OF  
NOTICE, APPROVAL TO NOTICE THE CLASSES, AND SETTING  
FINAL SETTLEMENT SCHEDULE AND DATE FOR FINAL  
APPROVAL HEARING PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 23(e)(1)

*In re Conagra Foods, Inc.*, No. CV 11-05379-CJC (AGRx),  
MDL No. 2291 (C.D. Cal.)

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**IN RE FAIRLIFE MILK PRODUCTS  
MARKETING AND SALES PRACTICES  
LITIGATION**

This Document Relates To:

ALL CASES

MDL No. 2909

Master Case No. 19-cv-3924

Judge Robert M. Dow, Jr.

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR  
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND JUDGMENT AND  
AWARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARDS**

On September 28, 2022, this Court held a hearing on Plaintiffs’ Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement (ECF No. 170) (the “Motion”) and Petition for an Award of Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, and Service Awards (ECF No. 172) (the “Petition”).

Plaintiffs Terri Birt, Carol Cantwell, Debra French, Karai Hamilton, Henry Henderson, Paula Honeycutt, Michelle Ingrodi, Jae Jones, Nabil Khan, Kaye Mallory, Christina Parlow, Cindy Peters, Jenny Rossano, David Rothberg, Eliana Salzhauer, Connie Sandler, Diana Tait, Demetrios Tsipsis, and Arnetta Velez, on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated, (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), have entered into a Settlement Agreement with Defendants The Coca-Cola Company (“TCCC”), fairlife, LLC (“fairlife”), Fair Oaks Farms, LLC (“FOF”), Mike McCloskey and Sue McCloskey (“the McCloskeys”), and Select Milk Producers, Inc. (“Select”) (collectively, “Defendants”) to resolve the litigation *In re fairlife Milk Products Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation*, MDL No. 2909, Lead Case No. 1:19-cv-03924-RMD-MDW (N.D. Ill.) (the “Litigation”). The Court, after conducting a fairness hearing on September 28, 2022 and having reviewed (i) the Motion, its accompanying memorandum and the exhibits thereto, the Settlement Agreement, and all arguments and papers filed in support of and/or in opposition to the Settlement and (ii) the Petition, its accompanying memorandum, exhibits, and declarations thereto, and having had the benefit of reviewing Class Counsel’s monthly *in camera* submissions of detailed time and expense reports, hereby finds that the Motion should be **GRANTED** as to the Settlement and that the Petition should be **GRANTED** as to the request for attorneys’ fees, costs, and service awards.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the Parties and all members of the Settlement Class (also referred to herein as the “Class”) and possesses subject matter jurisdiction to approve the Settlement and Agreement and all Exhibits thereto.

2. For purposes of this Order, except as otherwise set forth herein, the Court adopts and incorporates the definitions contained in the Settlement Agreement.

3. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g), Class Counsel previously appointed by the Court is appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class as they have and will fairly and competently represent the interests of the Settlement Class.

4. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3), the Court determines that the following Settlement Class be certified solely for the purposes of the Settlement:

All Persons in the United States, its territories, and the District of Columbia who purchased, for personal use and not for resale, any Covered Product on or before the Preliminary Approval Date.

Excluded from the Settlement Class are the following persons: (i) Defendants and their respective subsidiaries and affiliates, members, employees, officers, directors, agents, and representatives and their family members; (ii) Class Counsel; (iii) the judges who have presided over the Litigation; (iv) local, municipal, state, and federal government agencies; and (v) all persons who have timely elected to become Opt-Outs from the Settlement Class in accordance with the Court's Orders.<sup>1</sup>

5. The Court further finds that the prerequisites to a class action under Rule 23(a) are satisfied solely for settlement purposes:

- a. First, the Court finds that Rule 23(a)(1), which requires that the proposed class be "so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable" (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)), is met. While there is no numerical requirement for

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<sup>1</sup> The Court notes that Defendants have reserved all rights, claims, and defenses they may have in the event the Final Order and Judgment does not become final, including, but not limited to, Defendants' objection that a class cannot be certified in this Litigation under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 except for settlement purposes only. The Court reserves judgment on these matters.

- 3

with the Covered Products; (2) whether Defendants had a duty to disclose the material facts to Plaintiffs and the Members of the Settlement Class; and (3) whether Defendants' purported conduct constituted a breach of warranty.

- c. Third, the Court also finds Rule 23(a)(3)'s typicality requirement, which requires that "the claims . . . of the representative parties are typical of the claims . . . of the class . . . ." (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 (a)(3)) is met. The Court finds this requirement has been met here because the Named Plaintiffs' claims arise from the same course of events: their purchase of the Covered Products allegedly not produced in the manner in which Defendants allegedly represented. The Named Plaintiffs' interests are co-extensive with those of the Settlement Class because every Settlement Class Member claims injury resulting from the same alleged uniform misconduct.
- d. Finally, the Court finds that the adequacy requirement of Rule 23(a)(4), which requires that the named plaintiffs and their attorneys "will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class" (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4)), is met. There is no indication that Plaintiffs' interests are antagonistic to those of the Settlement Class or that the claims were not vigorously pursued. Furthermore, Class Counsel have significant experience in prosecuting class actions and complex cases such as this Litigation.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that each Rule 23(a) prerequisite has been met here for settlement purposes.

6. The Court also finds that the proposed Class meets the requirements of Rule 23(b)(3) solely for settlement purposes:

- a. According to Rule 23(b)(3), a class action may be maintained if the court finds that “questions of law or fact common to the class members predominate over any questions affecting individual members.” *Bell v. PNC Bank, Nat. Ass’n*, 800 F.3d 360, 376 (7th Cir. 2015). This requirement “tests whether proposed classes are sufficiently cohesive to warrant adjudication by representation.” *Barnes v. Air Line Pilots Ass’n, Int’l*, 310 F.R.D. 551, 560 (N.D. Ill. 2015). Here, all Settlement Class Members share a common legal grievance arising from Defendants’ marketing of the Covered Products, which were allegedly not produced in the manner in which Defendants represented. Common legal and factual questions — including whether the marketing of the Covered Products was false or misleading — are central to all Settlement Class Members’ claims and predominate over any individual questions that may exist.
- b. Resolution of these common legal claims through a class-wide settlement and claims process is also a superior way to proceed. Rule 23(b)(3) lists four factors for courts to consider in determining whether a class action is superior, and each of these factors supports a class-wide resolution. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3)(A)-(D) (“(A) the class members’ interests in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions; (B) the extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy already begun by or against class members; (C) the desirability or

undesirability of concentrating the litigation of the claims in the particular forum; and (D) the likely difficulties in managing a class action.”).

- i. First, Class Members have little interest in individually controlling separate lawsuits and settlement given the relatively small individual economic injuries involved, and those who do may choose to opt out of the Settlement.
- ii. Second, it appears that no individual Class Members have chosen to commence litigation concerning this controversy except through class litigation, further suggesting that a collective action is indeed the superior method of recovery.
- iii. Third, it is desirable to concentrate the litigation in this Court in part because related cases have already been transferred to this Court by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. *See Serv. Spring, Inc. v. Cambria Spring Co.*, 1984 WL 2925, at \*6 (N.D. Ill. 1984) (considering transfer of other cases in determining that it was desirable to concentrate litigation in particular forum).
- iv. Fourth, there will be no difficulties in managing a class-wide trial, “for the proposal is that there be no trial.” *Amchem Prods. v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591, 620 (1997).

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that each Rule 23(b) prerequisite has been met here for settlement purposes.



7. The Court hereby grants final approval of the Settlement Agreement and its terms and finds that said Settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and consistent and in compliance with all requirements of due process and applicable law, and directs consummation of the Settlement Agreement according to its terms and conditions.

8. Under Rule 23(e), “[t]he claims, issues, or defenses of a certified class . . . may be settled, voluntarily dismissed, or compromised only with the court’s approval.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e). And “[i]f the proposal would bind class members, the court may approve it only after a hearing and on finding that it is fair, reasonable, and adequate.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2). “Court approval is favored to promote the policy of encouraging settlement of litigation, where the settlement reflects a reasonable compromise over issues that are actually in dispute.” *Woods v. Club Cabaret, Inc.*, No. 1:15-01213, 2017 WL 4054523, at \*6 (C.D. Ill. May 17, 2017) (quotations omitted); *see also Hisps. United of DuPage Cty. v. Vill. of Addison*, Ill., 988 F. Supp. 1130, 1149 (N.D. Ill. 1997) (“[C]ourts look upon the settlement of lawsuits with favor because it promotes the interests of litigants by saving them the expense and uncertainties of trial, as well as the interests of the judicial system by making it unnecessary to devote public resources to disputes that the parties themselves can resolve with a mutually agreeable outcome”).

9. In accordance with the Court’s referral, the parties mediated this case before the Honorable Wayne R. Andersen (Ret.), a retired United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, who currently serves as a mediator for JAMS in complex litigation matters (“the Mediator”). The Mediator has significant experience mediating and resolving complex class actions like this one and ensured that the parties invested an appropriate amount of time and resources into reaching a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement. Indeed, the Mediator oversaw

every step of the settlement discussions, which occurred over an extended period of time and included numerous live mediation sessions of all parties as well as phone calls and extensive correspondence conducted with and through the Mediator.

10. The law for evaluating the fairness of a class action settlement is well-established in this Circuit. As the Seventh Circuit explained in *Wong v. Accretive Health, Inc.*:

[W]hen conducting a fairness determination relevant factors include: (1) the strength of the case for plaintiffs on the merits, balanced against the extent of settlement offer; (2) the complexity, length, and expense of further litigation; (3) the amount of opposition to the settlement; (4) the reaction of members of the class to the settlement; (5) the opinion of competent counsel; and (6) stage of the proceedings and the amount of discovery completed.

773 F.3d 859, 863 (7th Cir. 2014) (*quoting Gautreaux v. Pierce*, 690 F.2d 616, 631 (7th Cir. 1982)); *see also Schulte v. Fifth Third Bank*, 805 F. Supp. 2d 560, 578 (N.D. Ill. 2011) (*quoting Synfuel Techs., Inc. v. DHL Express (USA), Inc.*, 463 F.3d 646, 653 (7th Cir. 2006). “Although the district court must clearly set forth in the record the reasons for approving the settlement in order to make meaningful appellate review possible, the court’s reasoning need not be so specific as to amount to a judgment on the merits.” *Gautreaux*, 690 F.2d at 631. Moreover, “[i]t is not the burden of the proponents or the duty of the district court to support individual elements of the decree under some evidentiary standard akin to that for findings of fact.” *Id.*

11. As shown below, the application of these factors supports approval of the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate.

- a. The first factor weighs the strength of Plaintiffs’ case against the extent of the settlement offer. *Wong*, 773 F.3d at 863; *see also In re AT & T Mobility Wireless Data Servs. Sales Litig.*, 270 F.R.D. 330, 346 (N.D. Ill. 2010). Through their investigation, information exchanged during the mediation process, and confirmatory discovery, Plaintiffs developed a

comprehensive assessment of the various issues in this case. And, even if litigation classes were certified, the risk of losing on the merits would remain, whether at summary judgment or trial. Under these circumstances, the Settlement negotiated by Class Counsel is reasonable, providing monetary and injunctive relief to the Settlement Class Members without them having to bear the risks associated with further litigation, trial, and appeal. The relief obtained here, when weighed against the complexities and uncertainties of the litigation and the certainty of lengthy litigation in the absence of a settlement, support the conclusion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate.

- b. The second factor, the complexity, length, and expense of further litigation, weighs heavily in favor of the Settlement. *See Wong*, 773 F.3d at 863. By reaching a favorable Settlement, Plaintiffs have avoided further significant delay and ensured a recovery to the Settlement Class. Defendants have asserted numerous legal and factual defenses to Plaintiffs' claims that would require full discovery and further briefing. In the absence of this Settlement, the Parties will need to engage in significant additional discovery, including numerous depositions and pre-trial work. Class certification, expert discovery, and summary judgment motions are just a few of the matters that will have to be litigated, in addition to a trial and likely appeals, without this Settlement. Significant additional work would be necessary if the case were to proceed to trial. A trial on the merits would entail considerable expense, including

numerous experts, pre-trial motions, thousands more hours of attorney time, and given the right to appeal, trial would not necessarily end the litigation.

- c. The third and fourth factors involve weighing the amount of opposition as well as the reaction of class members to the settlement. *See Wong*, 773 F.3d at 863. Here, there has been wide dissemination of pertinent information about this Settlement, and to date, the Settlement Class' reaction has been highly encouraging, with no Objections filed, only two Opt-Outs, and more than 570,000 Claim Forms submitted to the Claims Administrator as of September 19, 2022. *See* Suppl. Decl. of Cameron R. Azari, Esq. On Implementation of Class Notice Program and Class Notice (ECF No. 177-1) ¶¶ 17, 19.
- d. The fifth factor, the opinion of competent counsel, also weighs heavily in favor of the Settlement. Courts are “entitled to rely heavily on the opinion of competent counsel.” *Gautreaux*, 690 F.2d at 634. All of the attorneys involved in this case have spent extensive time reviewing the Settlement in conjunction with evaluating the best interests of their clients. The attorneys are highly competent and have a vast amount of experience with class actions.
- e. The final factor considers the stage of the proceedings and the amount of discovery completed. Class Counsel has conducted substantial informal discovery during the extensive mediation process held before the highly

experienced Mediator. It was only at the conclusion of the lengthy mediation process that the parties were able to resolve the matter.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and warrants final approval.

12. The Court declares the Settlement Agreement and the Final Order and Judgment to be binding on, and have *res judicata* and preclusive effect, in all pending and future lawsuits or other proceedings encompassed by the Release (as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 65 of the Settlement Agreement) maintained by or on behalf of the Named Plaintiffs and all other Settlement Class Members, as well as their respective agents, heirs, executors or administrators, successors and assigns.

13. Defendants have served upon the appropriate state officials and the appropriate federal official notice under the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1715 (“CAFA”).

14. The Court finds that the Class Notice Program implemented pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and the Order preliminarily approving the Settlement (ECF No. 163): (i) constituted the best practicable notice, (ii) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated under the circumstances to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Litigation, of their right to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement, of their right to appear at the Fairness Hearing, and of their right to seek monetary and other relief, (iii) constituted reasonable, due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice, and (iv) met all applicable requirements of due process and any other applicable law.

15. The Court approves the Claim Form that was distributed to Settlement Class Members, the content of which was without material alteration from Exhibit A of the Settlement Agreement.

16. The Court appoints Validus Verification Services to serve as Auditor in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and the Stipulated Injunction. The costs of the audits, including all auditor fees and expenses, shall be borne by Defendants and shall not be paid from the Settlement Amount.

17. The Court appoints the Honorable Wayne R. Andersen (Ret.), who also served as the Mediator, as the independent third party to serve as the Court-appointed Monitor to monitor compliance with the Stipulated Injunction. The costs of the Monitor, including all Monitor fees and expenses, shall be borne by Defendants and shall not be paid from the Settlement Amount.

18. No amounts remaining in the Escrow Account following the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund shall revert back to Defendants. The Cy Pres Contribution Amount, if any, shall be distributed equally between the Center for Food Safety and the U.S. Dairy Education & Training Consortium. The Court further determines that the selection of each organization to receive any unclaimed funds, with their missions nationwide in scope, will ensure that the distribution of amounts remaining in the Escrow Account following the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund will be for a purpose as near as possible to the legitimate objectives underlying the lawsuit, the interests of Settlement Class Members, and the interests of those similarly situated.

19. The Court hereby dismisses the Litigation now pending before the Court (including all of the underlying suits transferred to the Court by the JPML and all individual and class claims presented thereby) on the merits and with prejudice and without fees or costs except as provided by the Settlement Agreement. Without limiting the foregoing, all Settlement Class Members who have not excluded themselves from the Settlement Class shall be bound by the Agreement and the Release, and all of their respective claims are hereby dismissed with prejudice and released, irrespective of whether or not they received actual notice of the Litigation or the Settlement.

20. The Court hereby orders that, within one (1) week after the Effective Date, any other lawsuits (if any) not pending before the Court will be dismissed with prejudice without fees or costs except as provided herein.

21. The Court hereby adjudges that the Named Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class have conclusively compromised, settled, dismissed, and released any and all Released Claims against Defendants and the Released Persons.

22. Upon the Effective Date, the Named Plaintiffs and all Settlement Class Members who have not been excluded from the Settlement Class, whether or not they return a Claim Form within the time and in the manner provided therefor, shall be barred from asserting any Released Claims against Defendants and/or any Released Persons, and any such Settlement Class Members shall have released any and all Released Claims as against Defendants and all Released Persons.

23. If for any reason this judgment is reversed, vacated, or materially modified on appeal, this Order shall be null and void, the Settlement Agreement shall be deemed terminated (except for any paragraphs that, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, survive termination of the Settlement), and the Settling Parties shall return to their positions without prejudice in any way, as provided for in the Settlement.

24. Without affecting the finality of the Final Order and Judgment for purposes of appeal, the Court reserves jurisdiction over the Claims Administrator, Validus, the Monitor, Defendants, the Named Plaintiffs, and the Settlement Class as to all matters relating to the administration, consummation, enforcement, and interpretation of the terms of the Settlement and Final Order and Judgment and for any other necessary purposes.

25. The Settlement Agreement and the Settlement provided for herein and any proceedings taken pursuant thereto are not and should not in any event be offered or received as

evidence of, a presumption, concession, or an admission of liability or of any misrepresentation or omission in any statement or written document approved or made by Defendants or any Released Persons or of the suitability of these or similar claims to class treatment in active litigation and trial; provided, however, that reference may be made to the Settlement Agreement and the Settlement provided for herein in such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the Settlement.

26. The Court bars and permanently enjoins all Settlement Class Members who have not been properly excluded from the Settlement Class from: (i) filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating (as class members or otherwise) in any other lawsuit or administrative, regulatory, arbitration or other proceeding in any jurisdiction based on, relating to, or arising out of the claims and causes of action or the facts and circumstances giving rise to the Litigation or the Released Claims arising on or before the Preliminary Approval Date; and (ii) organizing Settlement Class Members who have not been excluded from the class into a separate class for purposes of pursuing as a purported class action any lawsuit or arbitration or other proceeding (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations or seeking class certification in a pending action) based on, relating to, or arising out of the claims and causes of action or the facts and circumstances giving rise to the Litigation and/or the Released Claims, except that Settlement Class Members are not precluded from participating in any investigation or suit initiated by a state or federal agency.

27. The Court hereby approves the Opt-Out List, which consists of Settlement Class Members Steven Robertson and Victoria Lee, and determines that the Opt-Out List is a complete list of all Settlement Class Members who have timely requested exclusion from the Settlement



Class and, accordingly, shall neither share in nor be bound by the Final Order and Judgment except for Opt-Outs who subsequently submit Claim Forms during the Claim Period.

28. The Court authorizes the Parties, without further approval from the Court, to agree to and adopt such amendments, modifications, and expansions of the Settlement Agreement and all Exhibits thereto as (i) shall be consistent in all material respects with the Final Order and Judgment and (ii) do not limit the rights of the Parties or Settlement Class Members.

29. The Court finds, pursuant to Rules 54(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that judgment should be entered and further finds that there is no just reason for delay in the entry of final judgment as to the parties to the Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, the Clerk is hereby directed to enter this Final Judgment forthwith.

30. The Court has also carefully examined Plaintiffs' Petition and finds that the requested attorneys' fees of one-third of the Settlement Fund is fair, reasonable, and in keeping with this Circuit's precedent. Specifically, the factors supporting Class Counsel's requested fee award are: (i) attorneys' fees in other class action settlements; (ii) the risk of nonpayment Class Counsel agreed to bear; (iii) the quality of Class Counsel's performance; (iv) the amount of work necessary to resolve the litigation; and (v) the stakes of the case.

31. Specifically, the Court finds that Class Counsel has created significant value for the Settlement Class in negotiating an excellent settlement, especially in light of the significant risks Plaintiffs faced in litigating their case, as well as the cost and time it would take to litigate the case.

32. The Court has also specifically considered the requirements of Rule 23, including whether the relief provided to the class is adequate, taking into account, among other things, the terms of any proposed award of attorneys' fees, including timing of payment, and finds that Class

Counsel's excellent work in securing significant monetary damages, as well as injunctive relief, supports the requested fee award.

33. The Court notes that the injunctive relief negotiated by Class Counsel is meaningful and directly addresses the allegations at issue in this multidistrict litigation; however, the Court is not basing its ruling concerning attorneys' fees on the value of that injunctive relief.

34. The Court awards \$7,000,000, or one-third of the Settlement Fund, to Class Counsel as attorneys' fees in this litigation, and vests Class Counsel with the authority to distribute those fees to other Plaintiffs' counsel based upon their best judgment and in keeping with the Time and Expense Protocol that has governed the submission of time and expenses in this Litigation.

35. In addition to having an opportunity to review Plaintiffs' counsel's detailed lodestar, the Court has also had an opportunity to review the expenses incurred in this litigation. Based upon the applicable precedent, as well as Rule 23, the Court finds that the expenses are reasonable, and were necessary and appropriate in bringing this litigation. Accordingly, the Court awards Class Counsel \$95,198.99 in expenses, and directs Class Counsel to distribute reimbursements for expenses to other Plaintiffs' counsel in keeping with the Time and Expense Protocol.

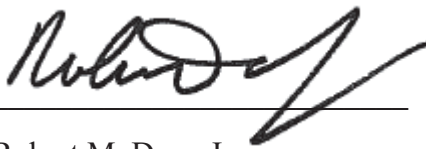
36. The Court has also carefully examined Plaintiffs' request for service awards given their work on the litigation and their role—as fiduciaries of the absent Class members—in reviewing the Settlement and approving same. The Court finds that the requested \$3,500 per Class Representative is in keeping with precedent in this Circuit and is appropriate given the work performed by the Class Representatives in this matter.

37. The Court notes that the Settlement was not contingent upon the Court's approval of the requested attorneys' fees, costs, or service awards, and that the Parties did not come to an

agreement on any of these issues as a condition to approving the Settlement. There is no indication of any collusion regarding the requested attorneys' fees, costs, or service awards, and the requested attorneys' fees, costs, and service awards are fair, reasonable, and consistent with this Circuit's precedent.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: September 28, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Dow, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Dow, Jr.

United States District Judge