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14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
15 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
16 **SOUTHERN DIVISION**

18 IN RE ALLERGAN, INC. PROXY
19 VIOLATION SECURITIES
LITIGATION

Case No. 8:14-cv-02004-DOC-KESX
CLASS ACTION

**PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF
MOTION AND MOTION FOR
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT AND
APPROVAL OF PLAN OF
ALLOCATION; AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS
AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT**

Hearing Date: May 30, 2018
Time: 7:30 a.m.
Courtroom: 9D (Santa Ana)
Judge: Hon. David O. Carter

NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES, AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 30, 2018 at 7:30 a.m., in Courtroom 9D of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Ronald Reagan Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 411 West Fourth Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701, the Honorable David O. Carter presiding, the Court-appointed class representatives State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio, Iowa Public Employees Retirement System and Patrick T. Johnson (together, “Plaintiffs” or “Class Representatives”) will and hereby do move for an Order pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: (i) granting final approval of the proposed settlement of the above-captioned securities class action; and (ii) granting approval of the proposed plan for allocating the net settlement proceeds.

This motion is based upon: (i) this Notice of Motion, (ii) the supporting Memorandum of Points and Authorities set forth below, (iii) the accompanying Joint Declaration of Mark Lebovitch and Lee Rudy and the exhibits attached thereto, (iv) the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated January 26, 2018 filed previously with the Court, (v) the pleadings and records on file in this action, and (vi) other such matters and argument as the Court may consider at the hearing of this motion. This motion is made pursuant to the Court’s March 19, 2018 Order Preliminarily Approving Proposed Settlement and Providing for Notice (ECF No. 614) (“Preliminary Approval Order”).

Proposed orders will be submitted with Plaintiffs’ reply submission, which will be filed after the May 9, 2018 deadline for objecting has passed.¹

¹ To date, there have been no objections and this motion is currently unopposed.

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1 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

2 Court-appointed Class Representatives State Teachers Retirement System of
3 Ohio (“Ohio STRS”), Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (“Iowa PERS”) and
4 Patrick T. Johnson, on behalf of themselves and the Court-certified Class, respectfully
5 submit this memorandum in support of their motion for an Order: (i) granting final
6 approval of the proposed settlement of this securities class action (“Settlement”), which
7 the Court preliminarily approved by its Preliminary Approval Order dated March 19,
8 2018, and (ii) approving the proposed plan for allocating the net settlement proceeds
9 to the Class (“Plan of Allocation”).¹

10 **I. INTRODUCTION**

11 After three years of vigorous litigation, including the completion of fact and
12 expert discovery, a highly contested motion for class certification, cross-summary
13 judgment motions and extensive trial preparation, Plaintiffs have agreed to settle all
14 claims asserted in the Action against Defendants² in exchange for \$250 million in cash.
15 Not only does the Settlement provide a significant and certain recovery for the Class

16 _____
17 ¹ All capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the
18 Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated January 26, 2018 (ECF No. 606)
19 (“Stipulation”) and the Joint Declaration of Mark Lebovitch and Lee Rudy in Support
20 of: (I) Plaintiffs’ Motion for Final Approval of the Proposed Settlement and Plan of
21 Allocation and (II) Lead Counsel’s Motion for Award of Attorneys’ Fees and
22 Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses (“Joint Declaration”) filed concurrently
23 herewith. The Joint Declaration is an integral part of this submission and, for the sake
24 of brevity in this memorandum, Plaintiffs respectfully refer the Court to the Joint
25 Declaration for a detailed description of, among other things: the claims asserted (¶¶20-
26 21), the procedural history of the Action (¶¶19-152), the negotiations leading to the
27 Settlement (¶¶147-152), the risks of continued litigation (¶¶153-171) and the Plan of
28 Allocation (¶¶178-185).

25 ² Defendants are Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc., Valeant Pharmaceuticals
26 International, J. Michael Pearson, Pershing Square Capital Management, L.P., PS
27 Management GP, LLC, PS Fund 1, LLC, Pershing Square, L.P., Pershing Square II,
28 L.P., Pershing Square GP, LLC, Pershing Square Holdings, Ltd., Pershing Square
International, Ltd. and William Ackman.

1 in an extraordinarily complex case fraught with substantial risk, but in terms of
2 precedential value, this Settlement represents the sixth largest securities recovery *of*
3 *any kind* in the Ninth Circuit (and the largest without a parallel government
4 enforcement action), the largest recovery by private plaintiffs alleging only insider-
5 trading claims, and the largest recovery in a private action alleging violations under
6 Rule 14e-3.

7 Particularly when considering the sheer number of novel issues that would have
8 put any judgment at risk following years of appeals, and the risk that a jury would give
9 undue weight to Defendants' assertions of subjective belief in the legality of their
10 conduct, the Settlement represents a meaningful percentage of the Class's likely
11 recoverable damages. This recovery represents 25% of recoverable damages under
12 various scenarios where the Class's total recovery could be limited to \$1 billion, and
13 9% of the Class's maximum theoretical damages of \$2.8 billion as estimated by
14 Plaintiffs' damages experts. This percentage recovery range is between three and eight
15 times greater than median securities recoveries in recent securities class actions.³

16 Besides providing a meaningful, immediate monetary recovery for the Class, the
17 Settlement avoids the substantial risks of continued litigation that could have precluded
18 any recovery at all, let alone a recovery greater than the Settlement Amount. Notably,
19 the Settlement was reached just two months before trial, where Plaintiffs would have
20 faced critical challenges to establishing both liability and damages. For example,
21 Plaintiffs would have had the difficult task of convincing a jury that Pershing traded
22

23 ³ See Laarni T. Bulan, Ellen M. Ryan & Laura E. Simmons, *Securities Class Action*
24 *Settlements: 2017 Review and Analysis* (Cornerstone Research 2018) (Ex. 8 to the Joint
25 Decl.) at 8, Fig. 7 (finding median securities settlement in 2017 recovered 3% of
26 estimated damages where damages were \$1 billion or more, and 2.5% of estimated
27 damages in the same range for years 2008-2016). See also NERA Economic
28 Consulting, *Recent Trends in Securities Class Action Litigation: 2017 Full-Year*
Review (finding median securities class action recovery at 2.6% of investor losses in
2017) (Ex. 9 to the Joint Decl.) at 38, Fig. 29.

1 on material non-public information (“MNPI”) “related to” a tender offer, and that it
2 was “reasonably foreseeable” to Valeant that its tip to Pershing would “result in a
3 violation of [Section 14e].” As Defendants argued, doing so could have required
4 Plaintiffs to prove Defendants’ subjective state of mind and a specific plan or intent to
5 launch a tender offer – a formidable task in light of Defendants’ witnesses’ deposition
6 testimony denying any such intent. Plaintiffs would have also had to overcome
7 Defendants’ strategy of suggesting their conduct was legal because it was reviewed by
8 numerous highly credentialed lawyers and implicitly approved by the SEC. While
9 Plaintiffs believed any reference to the SEC would be improper, they faced a constant
10 risk that Defendants would find ways to suggest that the jury should give weight to the
11 fact that the SEC not only failed to prosecute Defendants, but it fined Valeant’s target,
12 Allergan, for its conduct in defending against the takeover at the heart of this case.
13 Defendants also would challenge loss causation and damages by asserting, for
14 example, that Plaintiffs benefitted from Defendants’ conduct and were simply upset
15 because they could have made even more money had they not sold their Allergan stock.
16 Finally, given the many novel legal issues presented in this case, even a complete and
17 total victory for Plaintiffs at trial would have, in all likelihood, led to years of post-trial
18 appeals, with challenges to virtually *every* element of Plaintiffs’ claims and many
19 presenting issues of first impression.

20 When the Settlement was reached, Plaintiffs and their counsel were well-
21 informed of the strengths and weaknesses of their case. Over the course of three years
22 of intensive litigation, Lead Counsel, *inter alia*: (i) conducted a significant
23 investigation into the Class’s claims and drafted two detailed amended complaints; (ii)
24 defeated three motions to dismiss; (iii) successfully moved for class certification; (iv)
25 defeated a Rule 23(f) petition to the Ninth Circuit; (v) engaged in comprehensive fact
26 and expert discovery, including taking or defending over 70 depositions, analyzing
27 over 1.5 million pages of document discovery, reviewing and producing over 800,000

1 pages of client discovery, and exchanging opening and rebuttal reports for thirteen
2 retained experts; (vi) briefed and argued over 40 separate discovery motions before
3 two Court-appointed Special Masters; (vii) worked with experts and consultants in
4 market efficiency, damages, loss causation, and mergers and acquisitions; (viii) briefed
5 and argued (over the course of four days) cross-summary judgment motions; and
6 (ix) undertook extensive pre-trial preparations. *See generally* Joint Decl. ¶¶7-9, 24-
7 146.

8 In addition to these efforts, the Parties also engaged in protracted, arm’s-length
9 settlement discussions with the assistance of two experienced mediators—the
10 Honorable Layn R. Phillips and Gregory P. Lindstrom, prior to reaching the
11 Settlement. Following an unsuccessful full-day mediation in September 2016, it took
12 another 15 months of hard-fought litigation and intensive negotiations with Defendants
13 and the mediators to ultimately resolve the Action for \$250 million.

14 The Settlement has the full support of Plaintiffs, including Court-appointed Lead
15 Plaintiffs Ohio STRS and Iowa PERS—both highly sophisticated, institutional
16 investors of the type favored by Congress when passing the Private Securities
17 Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (“PSLRA”) that were intimately involved throughout
18 the litigation and settlement negotiations. Further, while the deadline to object to the
19 Settlement has not yet passed, not a single objection has been received to date.⁴

20 In light of the considerations discussed herein, Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel
21 submit that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, satisfies the standards of
22 Rule 23, and provides a significant recovery for the Class. Accordingly, Plaintiffs
23 respectfully request that the Court grant final approval of the Settlement and deem the
24

25
26 ⁴ The deadline for submitting an objection is May 9, 2018. If any timely objections are
27 received, Lead Counsel will address them in Plaintiffs’ reply papers to be filed with
28 the Court on or before May 23, 2018.

1 Plan of Allocation, set forth in the mailed Settlement Notice, to be a fair and reasonable
2 method for distributing the Net Settlement Fund to eligible Class Members.

3 **II. THE SETTLEMENT MERITS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COURT**

4 **A. The Standards for Judicial Approval of Class Action Settlements**

5 Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires judicial approval of
6 any class action settlement. *See Tait v. BSH Home Appliances Corp.*, No. SACV 10-
7 0711-DOC (ANx), 2015 WL 4537463, at *4 (C.D. Cal. July 27, 2015) (Carter, J.). The
8 authority to grant such approval lies within the sound discretion of the court. *See Class*
9 *Plaintiffs v. Seattle*, 955 F.2d 1268, 1276 (9th Cir. 1992). In exercising this discretion,
10 courts should be mindful of the “strong judicial policy favoring class settlements.” *Van*
11 *Ba Ma v. Covidien Holding, Inc.*, SACV 12-02161-DOC (RNBx), 2014 WL 360196,
12 at *4 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 31, 2014) (Carter, J.); *see also Officers for Justice v. Civil Serv.*
13 *Comm’n of the City and Cty. Of San Francisco*, 688 F.2d 615, 625 (9th Cir. 1982)
14 (noting that “voluntary conciliation and settlement are the preferred means of dispute
15 resolution” in the Ninth Circuit). Moreover, judicial policy favors settlements in class
16 actions “where substantial resources can be conserved by avoiding the time, costs, and
17 rigors of formal litigation.” *In re Skilled Healthcare Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. CV 09-
18 5416 DOC (RZx), 2011 WL 280991, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 26, 2011) (Carter, J.).⁵

19 Under Rule 23(e), the Court may grant final approval of a settlement “only after
20 a hearing and on finding that [the settlement] is fair, reasonable and adequate.” *Vinh*
21 *Nguyen v. Radiant Pharms. Corp.*, No. SACV 11-00406 DOC (MLGx), 2014 WL
22 1802293, at *1 (C.D. Cal. May 6, 2014) (Carter, J.); Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2). In
23 determining whether a settlement warrants final approval, courts in this Circuit are
24 guided by the following factors:

- 25 (1) the strength of the plaintiffs’ case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity,
26 and likely duration of further litigation; (3) the risk of maintaining class

27 _____
28 ⁵ Internal citations and footnotes are omitted unless otherwise indicated.

1 action status throughout the trial; (4) the amount offered in settlement; (5)
2 the extent of discovery competed and the stage of the proceedings; (6) the
3 experience and views of counsel; (7) the presence of a governmental
4 participant; and (8) the reaction of class members to the proposed
settlement.

5 *Churchill Vill., LLC v. Gen. Elec.*, 361 F.3d 566, 575 (9th Cir. 2004). “The relative
6 degree of importance to be attached to any particular factor will depend upon and be
7 dictated by the nature of the claim(s) advanced, the type(s) of relief sought and the
8 unique facts and circumstances presented by each individual case.” *Officers for Justice*,
9 688 F.2d at 625. Courts may also consider the “procedure by which the parties arrived
10 at the settlement to determine whether the settlement is truly the product of arm’s
11 length bargaining, rather than the product of collusion or fraud.” *Radiant*, 2014 WL
12 1802293, at *2. A court, however, “need not reach any ultimate conclusions on the
13 contested issues of fact and law which underlie the merits of the dispute, for it is the
14 very uncertainty of outcome in litigation and avoidance of wasteful and expensive
15 litigation that induce consensual settlements.” *Class Plaintiffs*, 955 F.2d at 1291; *see*
16 *also Lane v. Facebook, Inc.*, 696 F.3d 811, 819 (9th Cir. 2012) (“whether a settlement
17 is fundamentally fair within the meaning of Rule 23(e) is different from [] whether the
18 settlement is perfect in the estimation of the reviewing court”).

19 As set forth below, the Settlement warrants the Court’s final approval.

20 **B. The Settlement Satisfies the Ninth Circuit’s Criteria for Approval**

21 **1. The Factors Enumerated in *Churchill* Support Final**
22 **Approval**

23 **(a) The Amount Offered in Settlement**

24 The amount of a settlement “is generally considered the most important [factor],
25 because the critical component of any settlement is the amount of relief obtained by
26 the class.” *Destefano v. Zynga, Inc.*, No. 12-cv-04007-JSC, 2016 WL 537946, at *11
27 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 11, 2016). In assessing the recovery, a fundamental question is how
28

1 the value of the settlement compares to the amount the class potentially could recover
2 at trial, discounted for risk, delay and expense. “Naturally, the agreement reached
3 normally embodies a compromise; in exchange for the saving of cost and elimination
4 of risk, the parties each give up something they might have won had they proceeded
5 with litigation.” *Officers of Justice*, 688 F. 2d at 624; *see also Shapiro v. JPMorgan*
6 *Chase & Co.*, Nos. 11 Civ. 8331 (CM) (MHD), 11 Civ. 7961 (CM), 2014 WL 1224666,
7 at *11 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 24, 2014) (settlement amount must be judged “not in
8 comparison with the possible recovery in the best of all possible worlds, but rather in
9 light of the strengths and weaknesses of plaintiffs’ case”); *In re Mego Fin. Corp. Sec.*
10 *Litig.*, 213 F.3d 454, 459 (9th Cir. 2000) (same).

11 Here, the Settlement Amount—a quarter billion dollars in cash—is significant
12 under any measure. The recovery provides an immediate and tangible benefit to the
13 Class and eliminates the significant risk that the Class could recover less, or even
14 nothing at all, if the Action continued to trial. Joint Decl., ¶¶156-169.⁶ While Plaintiffs’
15 damages expert estimates the Class’s *maximum* potential recovery to be \$2.8 billion in
16 the aggregate, obtaining this amount at trial was far from certain and would have
17 required a jury to award damages related to price increases in Allergan stock which
18 occurred *months after* the announcement of Valeant’s hostile takeover for Allergan and
19 after Pershing’s large stake in Allergan shares had been obtained. *Id.* ¶¶163-169.

20 At trial, Defendants would have argued that damages were truly zero, and at a
21 minimum, far less than the \$2.8 billion figure. For example, Defendants would argue
22 that a more realistic recoverable amount was, at best, \$1 billion—the aggregate amount
23 of Allergan’s share price increase the day that Valeant announced its hostile bid and
24 Pershing revealed its multi-billion dollar position in Allergan stock. Thus, the
25

26 ⁶ *See White v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, 803 F. Supp. 2d 1086, 1098 (C.D. Cal. 2011)
27 (Carter, J.) (“It was not unreasonable ... to decide that a guaranteed recovery of \$45
28 million was better than the risk of no recovery at all.”).

1 Settlement Amount can be viewed as representing a recovery ranging between 9% and
2 25% of the Class’s potential recoverable damages in this Action. Joint Decl. ¶169. *See*
3 *Van Ba Ma v. Covidien Holding, Inc.*, 2014 WL 2472316, at *3 (C.D. Cal. May 30,
4 2014) (approving settlement constituting “9.1% of the total potential value of the
5 action;” noting that “it is not uncommon for a class action settlement to amount to
6 approximately 10% of the total potential value.”).⁷ By way of comparison, in 2017,
7 median securities class action settlements nationally were only 3% of estimated
8 damages for cases with estimated damages of \$1 billion or more, and only 2.5% for
9 the same damages range for years 2008 through 2016.⁸ Indeed, the Settlement ranks as
10 the largest ever securities class action recovery in the Ninth Circuit without a parallel
11 government action.

12 Importantly, the prosecution of this case and the Court’s rulings resulted in
13 significant precedent on multiple issues of first impression and will serve as a future
14 deterrent to the type of warehousing practices at issue in this Action. Indeed, the harm
15 to Pershing arising from its insider trading scheme extends far beyond the monetary
16 payment embodied in the Settlement. It is hard to believe any other hedge fund will try
17

18 _____
19 ⁷ Courts routinely approve settlements with relatively lower percentages of maximum
20 recoverable damages in securities class actions. *See, e.g., Roberti v. OSI Sys., Inc.*, No.
21 CV-13-09174 MWF (MRW), 2015 WL 8329916, at *4 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 8, 2015)
22 (approving settlement that represented 8% of “the potential maximum recoverable
23 damages in this case”); *IBEW Local 697 Pension Fund v. Int’l Game Tech., Inc.*, 2012
24 WL 5199742, at *3 (D. Nev. Oct. 19, 2012) (approving settlement recovering
25 approximately 3.5% of the maximum damages plaintiffs believed could be recovered
26 at trial); *In re Broadcom Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. SACV 01-275 DT (MLGx), 2005 WL
27 8153007, at *6 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 12, 2005) (approving settlement representing 2.7% of
28 damages and finding such percentage as “not [] inconsistent with the average recovery
in securities class action[s]”); *In re OmniVision Techs., Inc.*, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036,
1042 (N.D. Cal. 2008) (approving 9% settlement as “higher than the median percentage
[] recovered in recent shareholder class action settlements.”).

⁸ *See supra* n. 3 above.

1 to replicate what Pershing attempted here. Thus, the Settlement represents an excellent
2 result for the Class and this factor weighs strongly in favor of the Settlement.

3 **(b) The Strength of Plaintiffs' Case and the Significant Risks**
4 **of Continued Litigation**

5 Courts evaluating proposed class action settlements consider the strength of the
6 plaintiffs' case and the risks of further litigation. *See Torrissi v. Tucson Elec. PowerCo.*,
7 8 F.3d 1370, 1376 (9th Cir. 1993). Although Plaintiffs believe that they had adduced
8 substantial evidence to support their claims and were prepared to prove their case at
9 trial, they also acknowledged that there were considerable risks to success. *See In re*
10 *OmniVision Techs., Inc.*, No. C-04-2297 SC, 2007 WL 4293467, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Dec.
11 6, 2007) ("merely reaching trial is no guarantee of recovery").⁹ The Court also
12 recognized these risks. *See Settlement Hr'g Tr.* ("1/16/18 Tr."), 46:12-13 ("I want the
13 plaintiffs to know that I recognize the numerous risks that you had at trial and on
14 appeal."); *see also* Declaration of Co-Mediator Gregory P. Lindstrom (ECF No. 601)
15 ("Mediator Decl."), ¶11 ("Counsel presented significant arguments regarding their
16 clients' positions, and it was apparent to us that both sides possessed strong, non-
17 frivolous arguments, and that neither side was assured of victory."). Moreover, even if
18 Plaintiffs prevailed at trial, there is no assurance that a jury would have awarded them
19 an amount equal to, much less greater than, the Settlement Amount.¹⁰

20 _____
21 ⁹ Plaintiffs also were cognizant of the possibility that the Court's Tentative, which
22 ruled in Plaintiffs' favor on certain elements, could change prior to becoming final.
23 The Court repeatedly made clear that the Tentative was subject to revision (ECF No.
24 589 at 9:3-10:6) and that a second Tentative existed that went "exactly the opposite
25 way" (*id.* at 60:19-25) on the crucial element of "substantial steps." ECF No. 594 at
26 60:19-25.

27 ¹⁰ Even a successful jury verdict for plaintiffs is no guarantee of a recovery. *See In re*
28 *Apollo Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, Master File No. CV 04-2147-PHX-JAT, 2008 WL
3072731 (D. Ariz. Aug. 4, 2008), *rev'd*, 2010 WL 5927988 (9th Cir. 2010) (granting
judgment to defendants and nullifying a unanimous jury verdict for plaintiffs following
a two-month trial).

1 First, Plaintiffs faced challenges in establishing Defendants’ liability at trial.
2 Under the Tentative Summary Judgment Opinion (“Tentative”) as written, Plaintiffs
3 would be required to convince a unanimous jury that: (i) Pershing traded on MNPI
4 “related to” a tender offer (as opposed to a negotiated merger), and (ii) it was
5 “reasonably foreseeable” to Valeant that its tip to Pershing would “result in a violation
6 of this section.” *See* Tentative at 33-34, 36-37 (noting that whether the information
7 Pershing possessed during the Class Period “‘related to a tender offer,’ ... is a
8 vigorously disputed fact”). Plaintiffs faced the risk that Defendants—and the numerous
9 witnesses and attorneys they planned to put on the stand—could seek to rebut these
10 elements with evidence and argument surrounding Defendants’ subjective intent and
11 state of mind prior to and during the Class Period. For example, Defendants would
12 likely argue that their conduct was legal because, among other things: (i) Valeant and
13 Pershing *believed* they were partners and “co-bidders” in the takeover; (ii) Valeant did
14 not *subjectively* intend to launch a tender offer and affirmatively rejected any tender
15 offer before the Class Period; (iii) numerous lawyers negotiated the deal structure and
16 signed off on the trading; and (iv) the SEC *implicitly* approved Defendants’ conduct
17 by prosecuting claims against Valeant’s takeover target, Allergan, and *not* Defendants.
18 Plaintiffs’ ability to preclude the jury from hearing such potentially damaging
19 arguments depended on a variety of pretrial disputes, including opposing jury
20 instructions and *Daubert* and *in limine* motions. If such “subjective intent” or SEC-
21 related evidence was ultimately permitted at trial, a jury could infer (wrongly, in
22 Plaintiffs’ view) that no securities law violation occurred.

23 Second, even with a unanimous jury verdict on liability, Plaintiffs faced risks in
24 establishing loss causation and damages and, in particular, their entitlement to the full
25 amount of Defendants’ profits under Section 20A’s damages cap. Among other things,
26 Defendants would argue that the Class was not harmed at all, was never forced to sell
27 their Allergan shares, took inherent risk in investing in the stock market, and simply
28

1 suffered from “seller’s remorse.” *See* 1/16/18 Tr., 41:3-4; 41:22-23 (noting that the
2 “jury might hear that evidence and say it’s worth substantially less” especially given
3 that damages in the case did not represent an “actual loss” but instead “money that
4 wasn’t made”).

5 In addition, Defendants would argue, as they did throughout the litigation, that
6 damages, to the extent they exist at all, should be cut off on April 22, 2014, when
7 Valeant’s hostile takeover for Allergan was announced, and not, as Plaintiffs sought to
8 prove, on November 17, 2014, when the MNPI was fully disclosed—namely, what
9 Valeant was ultimately willing to pay for Allergan. They would also point to
10 “intervening” events purportedly unrelated to the alleged MNPI to explain away the
11 vast majority of Allergan’s stock price movements during the relevant period. If a jury
12 agreed with Defendants on this point, maximum damages would be reduced from the
13 \$2.8 billion estimated by Plaintiffs’ damages expert, to approximately \$1 billion.¹¹
14 Indeed, as in any securities class action—and particularly in this Action where little
15 case law addressing Section 14e-3 damages exists—proof of damages would have been
16 a heavily contested matter subject to conflicting expert testimony, and it would be
17 virtually impossible to predict with confidence how the court or a jury would resolve
18 such a dispute. *See In re Cendant Corp. Litig.*, 264 F.3d 201, 239 (3d Cir. 2001)
19 (damages award would come down to a “battle of experts’ ... with no guarantee whom
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21 ¹¹ Further, with respect to April 22, 2014, Defendants’ expert would testify that the
22 mere public disclosure of Pershing’s position in Allergan impacted the stock price,
23 requiring that Pershing’s presence in the deal alone be treated as “confounding”
24 information that had to be “disaggregated.” *See, e.g.*, Glenn Hubbard Rep., May 5,
25 2017 ¶¶61. Defendants would also argue that Pershing was tipped only that Valeant
26 *might* make a bid for Allergan, which was not certain until April 21, 2014. *See, e.g.*,
27 *id.* ¶¶18, 22. Based on this argument, Defendants’ experts would claim that the
28 disclosure on April 22, 2014 of Valeant’s *actual* plan to takeover Allergan did not
mirror the tipped MNPI or “relate” to a tender offer, which was inherently less certain.
See, e.g., id. ¶¶57-60; Steven Grenadier Rep., May 5, 2017 ¶¶30-53, 55-73, 86-87. If
successful, this defense argument could reduce damages even further.

1 the jury would believe”); *Radiant*, 2014 WL 1802293, at *2 (“Proving and calculating
2 damages require[s] a complex analysis, requiring the jury to parse divergent positions
3 of expert witnesses in a complex area of the law. The outcome of that analysis is
4 inherently difficult to predict and risky.”).

5 Finally, given the novel issues involved in this Action, Plaintiffs faced a serious
6 risk of appeal. As the Court acknowledged:

7 There would be numerous appeals. The case has many issues of first
8 impression, have never been decided, nor guidance given by the SEC. It
9 could be quite a process . . . If an appellate court went the other way on
10 any of the numerous issues that have been placed before the Court, I think
11 plaintiffs’ counsel – you’re absolutely right – this case would have come
spinning back in a year, year and a half, two years.

12 *See* 1/16/18 Tr., 46:24-25; 47:1-3. At a minimum, Defendants would appeal:
13 (i) whether a private cause of action exists under Rule 14e-3; (ii) whether Rule 14e-3
14 is constitutional as applied in the “warehousing” scenario presented here; (iii) the
15 standard for determining an “offering person”; (iv) the role of subjective intent in the
16 standard for “substantial steps”; (v) whether Plaintiffs’ stock sales were
17 “contemporaneous” with Pershing’s options trades with Nomura; and (vi) whether
18 there was a material dispute of fact on any liability element granted at summary
19 judgment. As many of the foregoing are matters of first impression, much of the
20 appellate review could be *de novo*.

21 By resolving the Action at this juncture, Plaintiffs avoid these litigation risks and
22 guarantee the Class a favorable and immediate cash recovery of \$250 million.
23 Accordingly, this factor strongly supports the Settlement.

24 **(c) Complexity, Expense and Likely Duration of Litigation**

25 Courts consistently recognize that the expense, complexity, and possible
26 duration of the litigation are key factors in evaluating the reasonableness of a
27 settlement. *See, e.g., Torrissi*, 8 F.3d at 1375-76 (finding that “the cost, complexity and
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1 time of fully litigating the case” rendered the settlement fair). Due to the “notorious
2 complexity” of securities class actions in particular, settlement is often appropriate
3 because it “circumvents the difficulty and uncertainty inherent in long, costly trials.”
4 *In re AOL Time Warner, Inc. Sec. & “ERISA” Litig.*, No. MDL 1500, 02 Civ. 5575
5 (SWK), 2006 WL 903236, at *8 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 6, 2006). Thus, a court “shall consider
6 the vagaries of litigation and compare the significance of immediate recovery by way
7 of the compromise to the mere possibility of relief in the future, after protracted and
8 expensive litigation.” *Nat’l Rural Telecomms. Coop. v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 221 F.R.D.
9 523, 526 (C.D. Cal. 2004).

10 As the Court is aware, this case was unquestionably complex and involved a
11 complicated fact pattern, numerous legal issues of first impression, and nuanced M&A
12 concepts involved in hostile takeover transactions. Unlike “traditional” securities cases
13 arising under Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5, the precedent for the
14 claims at issue in this Action (Section 14(e) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14e-3
15 promulgated thereunder) is less developed. This lack of precedent, which this Court
16 has repeatedly acknowledged, presented significant hurdles to Plaintiffs’ prosecution
17 of the case and would continue to be an issue at trial and beyond.¹² *See Boyd v. Bank*
18 *of Am. Corp.*, No. SACV 13-0561-DOC (JPRx) 2014 WL 6473804, at *5 (C.D. Cal.
19 Nov. 18, 2014) (Carter, J.) (“Trial would present significant risks for the Plaintiffs,
20 given the lack of direct Ninth Circuit authority...”); *Elliott, v. Rolling Frito-Lay Sales*,
21 No. SACV 11-01730 DOC (ANx), 2014 WL 2761316, at *7 (C. D. Cal. June 12, 2014)

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24 ¹² *See, e.g., Allergan, Inc. v. Valeant Pharms., Int’l, Inc.*, No. 14-cv-01214
25 DOC(ANx), 2014 WL 5604539, at *11-12 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 4, 2014) (noting, for
26 example, that “[t]he parties have not cited nor has the Court been able to find any legal
27 authority directly addressing how to distinguish between a cooffering person and ‘any
28 other person’ for Rule 14e-3 purposes” and “[n]either Congress nor the SEC has
provided guidance directly on point” and recognizing the “sparse case law” on this
issue).

1 (Carter, J.) (“the complex and novel legal issues would require significant briefing on
2 appeal, further increasing the cost and difficulty of the case”).

3 Plaintiffs also did not have the benefit of a parallel government action to assist
4 in prosecuting their claims. Rather, the government’s non-involvement was used
5 against them, as Defendants sought favorable inferences from the fact that the SEC
6 reviewed Defendants’ trading and public filings but has done nothing (to date).

7 The expense and likely duration of trial and appeals also support approving the
8 Settlement. *See In re Amgen Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. CV 7-2536 PSG (PLAx), 2016 WL
9 10571773, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 25, 2016) (“A trial of a complex, fact-intensive case
10 like this could have taken weeks, and the likely appeals of rulings on summary
11 judgment and at trial could have added years to the litigation.”). And, even with a
12 verdict at trial affirmed on appeal, the Class would have faced a potentially complex,
13 lengthy and (almost certainly) contested claims administration process.¹³ Barring
14 settlement, there is no question that resolution of this case would take considerable
15 time and require additional expenses, with the end result far from certain. *See Hartless*
16 *v. Clorox Co.*, 273 F.R.D. 630, 640 (S.D. Cal. 2011), *aff’d in part*, 473 F. App’x 716
17 (9th Cir. 2012) (“Considering these risks, expenses and delays, an immediate and
18 certain recovery for class members ... favors settlement of this action.”). Therefore,
19 this factor favors the Settlement.

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23 ¹³ In other securities fraud class actions that have gone to trial, the time from a verdict
24 to a final judgment has taken as long as *seven* years. *See Jaffe Pension Plan v.*
25 *Household Int’l., Inc.*, No. 1:-02-cv-05893, Verdict Form, ECF No. 1611 (N.D. Ill.
26 May 7, 2009) & Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal With Prejudice, ECF No. 2267
27 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 10, 2016); *see also Vivendi Universal, S.A. Sec. Litigation*, Civ. No. 02-
28 5571 (RJH/HBP), Verdict Form, ECF No. 998 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 2, 2010) (jury verdict
issued on Jan. 29, 2010) & Final Judgment Approving Class Action Settlement of All
Remaining Claims, ECF No. 1317 (S.D.N.Y. May 9, 2017).

1 Decl. ¶147. Although that session failed to result in a deal, the mediators stayed
2 apprised of case developments for over a year, occasionally getting the Parties to
3 exchange demands and offers, but never to any avail. *Id.*; *see also* Mediator Decl. ¶11.
4 Following the extended summary judgment hearing in December 2017 and with trial
5 preparations underway, the mediators made a final settlement push, engaging in
6 numerous one-on-one conversations with the Parties before reaching an acceptable
7 resolution of the Action for \$250 million very late on December 27, 2017. Mediator
8 Decl. ¶12.

9 Accordingly, when the Settlement was reached, Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel had
10 sufficient information to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their case and “to
11 effectively evaluate [...] the advantages of the settlement.” *Elliott*, 2014 WL 2761316,
12 at *8; *see also Amgen*, 2016 WL 10571773, at *4 (finding class representative had
13 “enough information to make an informed decision about settlement based on the
14 strengths and weaknesses of its case” where “discovery had been completed and th[e]
15 case was on the verge of trial”). This factor clearly weighs in favor of the Settlement’s
16 final approval.

17 **(e) Risk of Maintaining Class Action Status Through Trial**

18 The Class has already been formally certified; however, a court’s prior grant of
19 certification “may be altered or amended before final judgment” under Rule
20 23(c)(1)(C). *See OmniVision*, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1041 (noting that even if a class is
21 certified, “there is no guarantee the certification would survive through trial, as
22 Defendants might have sought decertification or modification of the class”). Having
23 prevailed on the Rule 23(f) Petition, Plaintiffs believed that neither this Court nor the
24 Ninth Circuit were very likely to undo the Court-certified Class. Nevertheless, a post-
25 trial judgment would inevitably put the certification issue before the U.S. Supreme
26 Court, which could raise serious risks. *See McKenzie v. Fed. Exp. Corp.*, No. CV 10-
27 02420 GAF (PLAx), 2012 WL 2930201 at *4 (C.D. Cal. July 2, 2012) (despite class
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1 certification and denial of defendant’s motion for reconsideration, this factor favored
2 final approval because “settlement avoids all possible risk”).

3 **(f) The Experience and Views of Counsel**

4 “With regard to class action settlements, the opinions of counsel should be given
5 considerable weight both because of counsel’s familiarity with th[e] litigation and
6 previous experience with cases.” *Covidien Holding, Inc.*, 2014 WL 2472316, at *4; *see*
7 *also Rodriguez v. W. Publ’g Corp.*, 563 F.3d 948, 965 (9th Cir. 2009) (“[t]his circuit
8 has long deferred to the private consensual decision of the parties” in settling an
9 action). Thus, “the trial judge, absent fraud, collusion, or the like, should be hesitant to
10 substitute its own judgment for that of counsel.” *In re Heritage Bond Litig.*, No. 02-
11 ML-1475, 2005 WL 1594403, at *9 (C.D. Cal. June 10, 2005); *see also In re Biolase,*
12 *Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. SACV 13-1300-JLS (FFMx), 2015 WL 12720318, at *5 (C.D. Cal.
13 Oct. 13, 2015) (“recommendation of plaintiffs’ counsel should be given a presumption
14 of reasonableness”).

15 Lead Counsel have extensive experience in litigating securities class action
16 litigation throughout the country, including within this Circuit and District in
17 particular, and assessing the respective merits of each side’s case.¹⁴ As the Court has
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19 ¹⁴ *See* firm resumes of Bernstein Litowitz and Kessler Topaz, attached as Exhibits
20 3A-4 and 3B-5 to the Joint Declaration. For example, Kessler Topaz has served as
21 counsel in the following high-profile matters in this Circuit: *Maine State Retirement*
22 *System v. Countrywide Financial Corp., et al.*, No. 2:10-cv-00302-MRP(MANx) (C.D.
23 Cal.) (\$500 million recovery); *In re Tenet Healthcare Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. CV-02-
24 8462-RSWL (Rzx) (C.D. Cal.) (combined recovery of \$281.5 million from Tenet and
25 its outside auditor KPMG); and *In re HP Sec. Litig.*, No. 3:12-cv-05980-CRB (N.D.
26 Cal.) (\$100 million recovery). Likewise, Bernstein Litowitz has served as counsel in
27 the following high-profile matters in this Circuit: *In re McKesson HBOC, Inc.*
28 *Securities Litigation*, 5:99-cv-20743 (N.D. Cal.) (over \$1.05 billion recovery); *In re*
Wells Fargo Mortgage-Backed Certificates Litigation, 3:09-cv-01376 (N.D. Cal.)
(\$125 million recovery); *In re Maxim Integrated Products, Inc. Securities Litigation*,
No. 08-cv-00832 (N.D. Cal.) (\$173 million recovery); *In re New Century*, No. 07-cv-
00931 (C.D. Cal.) (\$125 million in total settlements from individual defendants,

1 seen, Lead Counsel vigorously litigated this case for three years and were intimately
2 familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of this Action when they recommended the
3 Settlement to Plaintiffs and now support its approval for the Class.

4 **(g) The Absence of Governmental Participant**

5 The absence of a government participant is typically viewed as neutral or
6 inapplicable to a court’s analysis of a settlement. *Spann v. J.C. Penney Corp.*, 211 F.
7 Supp. 3d 1244, 1257 (C.D. Cal. 2016) (“There is no government participant in this
8 matter. Accordingly, this factor is not relevant.”); *Wren v. RGIS Inventory Specialists*,
9 2011 WL 1230826, at *10 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 1, 2011) (noting lack of government entity
10 involved in case rendered factor inapplicable to the analysis).

11 In this Action, however, the lack of SEC action (thus far) underscores the
12 strength of the result as the Settlement provides the *only* certain recovery for Class
13 Members as a result of Defendants’ alleged misconduct.¹⁵ Further, as noted, the SEC
14 instead took action against Valeant’s takeover target—a development that Defendants
15 sought to exploit and cite to undermine Plaintiffs’ at trial. This recovery stands as the
16 Ninth Circuit’s largest recovery in a private securities action without a parallel
17 government enforcement action—a factor that clearly weighs in favor of approval.

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21 underwriters and auditor); *In re Washington Mutual, Inc., Sec. Litigation*, No. 08-cv-
22 01919 (W.D. Wash.) (\$208.5 million recovery); *In re International Rectifier*
23 *Corporation. Securities Litigation*, 2:07-cv-02544 (C.D. Cal.) (\$90 million recovery).

24 ¹⁵ Lead Counsel have been informed by Defendants that the United States Attorney
25 General and State and Territory Attorneys General were notified of the Settlement
26 pursuant to the notice provision of the Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”). *See*
27 *Zynga*, 2016 WL 537946, at *13 (“Although CAFA does not create an affirmative duty
28 for either state or federal officials to take any action in response to a class action
settlement, CAFA presumes that, once put on notice, state or federal officials will raise
any concerns that they may have during the normal course of the class action settlement
procedures.”). Moreover, the Settlement in no way impairs, impedes, or prevents the
SEC from taking any action against Defendants.

1 *IBEW*, 2012 WL 5199742, at *2 (finding settlement to be fair where it “was reached
2 following arm’s length negotiations between experienced counsel that involved the
3 assistance of an experienced and reputable private mediator, retired Judge Phillips”).

4 Here, the Parties’ negotiations were protracted and thorough and the Settlement
5 was reached only after years of litigation and intensive good-faith bargaining. Joint
6 Decl. ¶¶147-150; *see also* Mediator Decl. ¶14 (noting negotiations were “extremely
7 vigorous, completely at arm’s length, and fully conducted in good faith”). As
8 previously noted, the Parties began exploring settlement in the fall of 2016. Although
9 too far apart in their respective positions to reach a resolution at that time, the Parties
10 continued informal discussions with Judge Phillips and Mr. Lindstrom over the
11 following year while simultaneously engaging in vigorous litigation. *See* Mediator
12 Decl. ¶¶8-11.¹⁷ Following argument on summary judgment, the Parties made a final
13 push towards settlement and, with the assistance of the mediators, resolved the Action
14 on December 27, 2017. *Id.* ¶¶12-13. Given the massive evidentiary and litigation
15 record in the case combined with the protracted negotiations and extensive mediation
16 briefing, both sides were fully informed of the strengths and weaknesses of their cases
17 before agreeing to a resolution. The informed, arm’s-length nature of the negotiations
18 leading to the Settlement unquestionably support its approval.

19 For all of the foregoing reasons, the Court should find that the Settlement is fair,
20 reasonable and adequate, in the Class’s best interests and warrants final approval.

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24 ¹⁷ The fact that the Parties were unable to resolve the Action following their September
25 2016 mediation and required substantial additional negotiations further demonstrates
26 that the Settlement is the product of arm’s-length negotiations and free of collusion.
27 *See Hicks v. Stanley*, No. 01 Civ 10071 (RJH), 2005 WL 2757792, at *5 (S.D.N.Y.
28 Oct. 24, 2005) (“A breakdown in settlement negotiations can tend to display the
negotiation’s arms-length and non-collusive nature.”).

1 **III. THE PLAN OF ALLOCATION IS FAIR, REASONABLE**
2 **AND ADEQUATE**

3 A plan of allocation under Rule 23 “is governed by the same standards of review
4 applicable to approval of the settlement as a whole; the plan must be fair, reasonable
5 and adequate.” *Radiant*, 2014 WL 1802293, at *5. Courts “recognize that “[a]n
6 allocation formula need only have a reasonable, rational basis, particularly if
7 recommended by experienced and competent counsel.” *Id.* Moreover, “[a] plan of
8 allocation that reimburses class members based on the extent of their injuries is
9 generally reasonable.” *In re Oracle Sec. Litig.*, No. C-90-0931-VRW, 1994 WL
10 502054, at *1 (N.D. Cal. June 18, 1994); *see also Ansell v. Laiken*, No. CV 10-9292
11 PA (AGRx), 2012 WL 13034812, at *9 (C.D. Cal. July 11, 2012) (finding that “Plan
12 of Allocation, which distributes the proceeds of the net settlement fund on a pro rata
13 basis, based on the claimant’s recognized claim amounts, is fair and reasonable”).

14 Here, the proposed Plan of Allocation (“Plan”), which was developed by Lead
15 Counsel in consultation with Plaintiffs’ damages expert, is a fair and reasonable
16 method for allocating the Net Settlement Fund among eligible Class Members. Joint
17 Decl. ¶¶179-180. The Plan is designed to equitably distribute the Net Settlement Fund
18 to those Class Members who suffered economic losses as a proximate result of the
19 alleged wrongdoing. It is straightforward, calculating the difference between the price
20 at which Class Members sold shares of Allergan common stock during the Class Period
21 and \$209.20, the closing price of Allergan common stock on November 17, 2014 (i.e.,
22 the date Allergan announced it would be acquired by Actavis), offset by any gains
23 resulting from shares purchased during the Class Period. *Id.*

24 Under the Plan, the Court-authorized Claims Administrator, Garden City Group,
25 LLC (“GCG”), will calculate each Claimant’s “Recognized Claim” based on the
26 information supplied in the Claimant’s Claim Form. Thereafter, following approval of
27 the Settlement and upon the Court’s entry of an Order approving a distribution plan,
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1 the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to Authorized Claimants on a *pro rata* basis
2 based on the relative size of their Recognized Claims (i.e., the sum of a Claimant's
3 losses for all sales of Allergan common stock during the Class Period less the sum of
4 that Claimant's gains from all purchases of Allergan common stock during the Class
5 Period). *See In re Broadcom Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. SACV 01-275 DT (MLGx), 2005
6 WL 8152913, at *5 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 12, 2005) (approving plan of allocation when the
7 allocation was pro rata across the class).

8 The Plan was fully disclosed in the Settlement Notice mailed to potential Class
9 Members and nominees. To date, there have been no objections to the Plan. Joint Decl.
10 ¶185. Accordingly, Lead Counsel believe that the Plan is fair, reasonable and adequate
11 and should be approved.

12 **IV. THE CLASS RECEIVED ADEQUATE NOTICE**

13 Plaintiffs have provided the Class with adequate notice of the Settlement. In
14 accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order, GCG mailed the Settlement Notice
15 and Claim Form via first-class mail to all persons and entities who were previously
16 mailed copies of the Class Notice in 2017 as well as any other potential Class Members
17 identified through reasonable effort. *See* Affidavit of Jose C. Fraga (Joint Decl. Ex. 2),
18 ¶¶3-8. In addition, GCG caused the Summary Settlement Notice to be published in *The*
19 *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Financial Times* and transmitted
20 over *PRNewswire* on April 10, 2018. *Id.* ¶9. GCG also updated the website for this
21 case, www.AllerganProxyViolationSecuritiesLitigation.com, to provide members of
22 the Class and other interested persons with information about the Settlement and the
23 applicable deadlines, as well as access to downloadable copies of the Settlement Notice
24 (including the Plan of Allocation), the Claim Form, Stipulation, and the Preliminary
25 Approval Order. *Id.* ¶11.

26 The Settlement Notice provides the necessary information for Class Members to
27 make an informed decision regarding the Settlement. *See, e.g., Spann v. J.C. Penney*

1 *Corp.*, 314 F.R.D. 312, 330 (C.D. Cal. 2016) (“Settlement notices must fairly apprise
2 the prospective members of the class of the terms of the proposed settlement and of the
3 options that are open to them in connection with the proceedings.”). The Settlement
4 Notice informs Class Members of, among other things: (1) the amount of the
5 Settlement; (2) the reasons why the Parties are proposing the Settlement; (3) the
6 estimated average recovery per affected share of Allergan common stock; (4) the
7 maximum amount of attorneys’ fees and expenses that will be sought; (5) the identity
8 and contact information for the representatives of Lead Counsel who are reasonably
9 available to answer questions from Class Members concerning matters contained in the
10 Settlement Notice; (6) the right of Class Members to object to the Settlement; (7) the
11 binding effect of a judgment on Class Members; and (8) the dates and deadlines for
12 certain Settlement-related events. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(7). The Settlement Notice also
13 contains the Plan of Allocation and provides Class Members with information on how
14 to submit a Claim Form in order to be eligible to receive a distribution from the Net
15 Settlement Fund. *See* Fraga Aff., Ex. A. Thus, the Settlement Notice is sufficient
16 because it “generally describes the terms of the settlement in sufficient detail to alert
17 those with adverse viewpoints to investigate and to come forward and be heard.” *Lane*,
18 696 F.3d at 826.

19 In sum, the Settlement Notice fairly apprises Class Members of their rights with
20 respect to the Settlement, is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and
21 complies with the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order, the Federal Rules of Civil
22 Procedure, the PSLRA and due process. *See, e.g., Hayes v. MagnaChip Semiconductor*
23 *Corp.*, No. 14-cv-01160-JST, 2016 WL 6902856, at *4-5 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2016)
24 (approving similar notice program); *OSI Sys.*, 2015 WL 8329916, at *2-3 (same).

1 **V. CONCLUSION**

2 For the reasons stated herein and in the Joint Declaration, Plaintiffs respectfully
3 request that the Court grant final approval of the proposed Settlement and approve the
4 Plan of Allocation.

5
6 DATED: April 25, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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