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8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

9 COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

10 BRENT T. ROBINSON, et al., Individually ) Case No. 1:12-cv-232227  
and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, )

11 Plaintiffs, ) CLASS ACTION

12 vs. ) CLASS REPRESENTATIVES' MOTION FOR  
13 ) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS

14 AUDIENCE, INC., et al., ) ACTION SETTLEMENT AND  
15 ) MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND

16 Defendants. ) AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF

DATE: November 13, 2015

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

DEPT: 1

JUDGE: Hon. Peter H. Kirwan

DATE ACTION FILED: 09/13/12

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Class Representatives, Brent T. Robinson and Dorothy Kasian, submit this memorandum in  
3 support of their motion for preliminary approval of the settlement of this class action (the “Litigation”)  
4 on the terms set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement dated October 19, 2015 (“Stipulation” or  
5 “Settlement”), submitted herewith.<sup>1</sup> The Settlement provides that Defendants will cause Audience,  
6 Inc.’s (“Audience” or the “Company”) Directors and Officers insurer(s) to pay the sum of \$6,050,000  
7 for the benefit of the Class. This favorable Settlement is the result of extended litigation and arm’s-  
8 length negotiations between the parties over more than a year including two mediation sessions. The  
9 Settlement resolves Class Representatives’ claims against all Defendants.

10 Class Representatives now ask the Court to enter the [Proposed] Order Preliminarily Approving  
11 Settlement and Providing for Notice (“Notice Order”), submitted herewith. As part of the Notice Order,  
12 Class Representatives seek approval of the form, substance and manner of dissemination of the Notice of  
13 Proposed Settlement of Class Action (“Notice”), Proof of Claim and Release form (“Proof of Claim”),  
14 and the Summary Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action (“Summary Notice”), which are  
15 attached as Exhibits A-1 to A-3 to the Notice Order, submitted herewith. Finally, Class Representatives  
16 request the Court to schedule a Settlement Fairness Hearing at which time the Court will consider final  
17 approval of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, Class Representatives’ request for the payment of the  
18 time and expenses they incurred in prosecuting this Litigation on behalf of the Class, and Class Counsel’s  
19 application for an award of attorneys’ fees and expenses.

20 Class Representatives submit that the Settlement is a highly favorable result for the Class,  
21 considering the risk of a much smaller or even no recovery if the case proceeded through the completion  
22 of discovery, dispositive motions, trial, and likely appeals. As set forth in greater detail in the Declaration  
23 of John K. Grant in Support of Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (“Grant  
24 Decl.”), which is being filed concurrently, during the course of the litigation, Class Representatives and  
25 their counsel have conducted a comprehensive investigation, including witness accounts of Audience’s  
26 operations given by former Audience employees, obtained and reviewed over 55,000 pages of documents

27 <sup>1</sup> All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the  
28 Stipulation.

1 from Audience and non-party Apple Inc. (“Apple”), engaged in significant motion practice, including  
2 successfully opposing two demurrers and obtaining class certification, and participated in extended  
3 settlement negotiations, including separate formal mediations with Randall W. Wulff and Jed D. Melnick,  
4 through which the strengths and weaknesses of the parties’ respective positions were explored and  
5 debated. Plaintiffs’ Counsel,<sup>2</sup> who have extensive experience in the prosecution of similar securities class  
6 actions and other complex litigation, therefore had sufficient information to make an informed and  
7 reasoned decision regarding the propriety of settlement.

8 For all the reasons stated herein and in the Grant Declaration, Class Representatives and their  
9 counsel respectfully request that the Court grant this motion and enter the Notice Order.

10 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

11 On September 13, 2012, Brent T. Robinson filed a complaint for violations of federal securities  
12 laws against Defendants, Peter B. Santos, Audience’s President and Chief Executive Officer, and Kevin S.  
13 Palatnik, Audience’s Chief Financial Officer. On October 2, 2012, Judge James P. Kleinberg entered an  
14 order designating the action complex and assigning it to the complex litigation department. Three related  
15 cases, making substantially similar allegations were subsequently filed in this Court, captioned *Deel v.*  
16 *Audience, Inc.*, No. 1-12-cv-235621; *Nowak v. Audience, Inc.*, No. 1-12-cv-236676; and *Kasian v.*  
17 *Audience, Inc.*, No. 1-12-CV-236690. On February 25, 2013, plaintiff Robinson on his own behalf and  
18 naming the plaintiffs in the follow-on actions filed the First Amended Complaint for Violation of §§ 11  
19 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 (“Complaint”).

20 Plaintiffs, who purchased Audience common stock issued in Audience’s initial public offering  
21 (“IPO”) on or about May 10, 2012, alleged that Defendants issued a false and misleading registration  
22 statement that misled investors regarding Audience’s relationship with Apple, Audience’s principal  
23 customer, and the risk that Audience’s technology would not be included in the then upcoming iPhone5.

24 On March 1, 2013, Defendants filed a demurrer to the Complaint challenging the Court’s subject  
25 matter jurisdiction. Plaintiffs filed their opposition on April 1, 2013. The Court heard argument on May  
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27 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs’ Counsel means Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP; Glancy Prongay & Murray LLP;  
28 Bottini & Bottini, Inc.; Holzer & Holzer, LLC; and Robbins Arroyo LLP.

1 17, 2013, and Judge Kleinberg overruled the jurisdictional demurrer in a May 28, 2013 Order on  
2 Demurrer for Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction.

3 On March 27, 2013, Defendants filed a demurrer to the Complaint for failure to allege facts  
4 sufficient to state a cause of action. Plaintiffs filed an opposition to that demurrer on April 26, 2013. On  
5 June 17, 2013, Plaintiffs filed a motion to compel discovery responses. On June 18, 2013, Defendants  
6 filed a motion for a protective order to stay discovery. The parties filed their respective oppositions and  
7 replies. The demurrer and discovery motions were heard on August 23, 2013. On September 3, 2013,  
8 Judge Kleinberg issued an Order on Demurrer, Motion to Compel and Motion for Protective Order to  
9 Stay Discovery overruling the demurrer, and granting the motion to compel in part. Defendants filed their  
10 answer to the complaint on September 13, 2013.

11 On October 18, 2013, Defendants filed a petition for writ of mandate in the Sixth Appellate  
12 District challenging the September 3, 2013 Order overruling the demurrer. The petition was denied on  
13 May 22, 2014. On January 22, 2014, this case was reassigned from Judge Kleinberg to Judge Peter H.  
14 Kirwan.

15 On November 7, 2014, plaintiffs Robinson and Kasian filed their motion for class certification,  
16 asking the Court to appoint them as class representatives. Defendants opposed the motion on December  
17 12, 2014 and Plaintiffs filed their reply on January 9, 2015. The Court heard argument on the motion for  
18 class certification on January 16, 2015 and issued an order granting the motion for class certification, and  
19 appointing Ms. Kasian and Mr. Robinson class representatives. The Court certified the following class:  
20 all persons or entities who acquired Audience common stock pursuant and/or traceable to the  
21 Registration Statement and Prospectus (Registration No. 333-179016) issued in connection with the  
22 Company's May 9, 2012 IPO. Excluded from the Class are Defendants and their families, the officers,  
23 directors and affiliates of the Defendants, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families,  
24 heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest.<sup>3</sup>

25  
26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>3</sup> For purposes of settlement and in order to give Class Members an option to exclude themselves  
28 from the Class, the Parties added to the definition of the certified class: "Also excluded is any Person  
who validly request exclusion from the Class."

1 Following the Court’s order on the discovery motions, the parties engaged in discovery. In  
2 response to Plaintiffs’ discovery requests, Defendants produced over 53,000 pages of documents and non-  
3 party Apple produced over 2,300 pages of documents. Defendants served document requests and  
4 interrogatories on December 6, 2013, to which Plaintiffs responded. Mr. Robinson was deposed on  
5 November 12, 2014. Ms. Kasian was deposed on November 14, 2014.

6 As discovery continued, the parties agreed to attend a mediation session conducted by third-party  
7 neutral Randall W. Wulff. Plaintiffs and Defendants submitted and exchanged mediation statements  
8 summarizing their respective positions based in part on evidence obtained through discovery. The  
9 mediation with Mr. Wulff was not successful in light of the parties’ disagreements on the merits of the  
10 claims asserted in the Complaint. After additional document production and review, the parties engaged  
11 in further settlement discussions and agreed to participate in a second mediation session with third-party  
12 neutral Jed D. Melnick.<sup>4</sup> The parties again prepared mediation statements summarizing the evidence  
13 obtained through discovery. The mediation session was held on July 23, 2015. As a result of that  
14 mediation, the Settling Parties were able to reach an agreement-in-principle to settle the Litigation.  
15 Thereafter, the Settling Parties engaged in further negotiations regarding the entire terms of the Settlement  
16 which are contained in the Stipulation and its related exhibits.

### 17 **III. THE SETTLEMENT**

18 The complete terms of the Settlement are set forth in the concurrently filed Stipulation. As  
19 consideration for the release of claims described in the Stipulation, Defendants have agreed to cause to  
20 be paid \$6,050,000 for the benefit of the Class. *See* Stipulation, ¶2.1. This amount will be paid into an  
21 interest-bearing escrow account (“Escrow Account”) within 15 business days of entry of an order  
22 granting preliminary approval of the Settlement. *Id.*

23 The Settlement Fund, less any attorneys’ fees and expenses awarded by the Court to Plaintiffs’  
24 Counsel and any reasonable costs and expenses incurred by Class Representatives in their  
25 representation of the Class awarded by the Court, notice and administration expenses, and any Taxes  
26 payable from the Settlement Fund (the “Net Settlement Fund”), will be distributed to Authorized

27 <sup>4</sup> The parties did not use Mr. Wulff for the second mediation because his availability could not be  
28 coordinated with the parties’ schedules.



1 Claimants (*i.e.*, Class Members who file timely and valid Proofs of Claim) in accordance with the Plan  
2 of Allocation of the Settlement Fund described in the Notice. Stipulation, ¶5.1. The Plan of Allocation,  
3 which was developed in consultation with Class Representatives’ damages consultants, takes into  
4 account the damages that Class Counsel believes could have been established at trial and treats all  
5 potential claimants in a fair and equitable fashion.

6 **IV. THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WARRANTS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**

7 California has a well-established and strong public policy favoring compromises of litigation.  
8 *Hamilton v. Oakland Sch. Dist.*, 219 Cal. 322, 329 (1933) (“it is the policy of the law to discourage  
9 litigation and to favor compromises”); *see also Cent. & W. Basin Water Replenishment Dist. v. S. Cal.*  
10 *Water Co.*, 109 Cal. App. 4th 891, 912 (2003). This policy is particularly compelling in class actions.  
11 *See 7-Eleven Owners for Fair Franchising v. Southland Corp.*, 85 Cal. App. 4th 1135, 1152 (2000).

12 Preliminary approval is the first of three steps that comprise the approval procedure for  
13 settlements of class actions. The second step is the dissemination of notice of the settlement to class  
14 members. The third step is a final settlement approval hearing or fairness hearing, at which evidence  
15 and argument concerning the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of the settlement may be presented  
16 and class members may be heard regarding the settlement. *See* Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 3.769;  
17 *Manual for Complex Litigation* §21.63 (4th ed. 2004); *Munoz v. BCI Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Los*  
18 *Angeles*, 186 Cal. App. 4th 399, 407 (2010) (standard for final approval is whether the settlement is fair,  
19 adequate and reasonable to the class). Although the standard for preliminary approval is not set forth in  
20 published California law, California courts have adopted the procedures and standards developed in the  
21 federal courts for such review and approval. *See La Sala v. Am. Sav. & Loan Ass’n*, 5 Cal. 3d 864, 872  
22 (1971); *Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.*, 48 Cal. App. 4th 1794, 1811 n.7 (1996); *Wershba v. Apple Comput.,*  
23 *Inc.*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 224, 240 (2001).

24 Class Representatives are now requesting this Court take the first step in the process. In  
25 determining whether to grant preliminary approval, the Court need only consider whether ““the  
26 proposed settlement appears to be the product of serious, informed, non-collusive negotiations, has no  
27 obvious deficiencies, does not improperly grant preferential treatment to class representatives or  
28 segments of the class, and falls within the range of possible approval.”” 2 Herbert B. Newberg and

1 Alba Conte, *Newberg on Class Actions* §11.25, at 11-37 (3d ed. 1992) (quoting *Manual for Complex*  
2 *Litigation* §30.44 (2d ed. 1985)).<sup>5</sup> As set forth below, the Settlement readily meets these criteria and  
3 should be preliminarily approved for purposes of providing notice and holding a future fairness hearing.

4 First, this Settlement is the product of serious, informed, settlement negotiations among the  
5 parties over the course of more than a year. The settlement negotiations included mediation sessions  
6 with Mr. Wulff on May 8, 2014, and Mr. Melnick on July 23, 2015. Prior to each mediation, the parties  
7 drafted, submitted and exchanged mediation statements summarizing their respective positions based in  
8 part on evidence obtained through discovery. The settlement negotiations were at all times hard fought  
9 and at arm's length. During these negotiations, Plaintiffs' Counsel advanced Plaintiffs' positions and  
10 were fully prepared to continue to litigate rather than accept a settlement that was not in the best interest  
11 of the Class. Indeed, the first mediation which occurred in May 2014 did not result in a resolution of  
12 the Litigation. It was not until the parties continued to litigate and Plaintiffs obtained additional  
13 discovery that an agreement-in-principle was reached at the second mediation in July 2015. During  
14 settlement negotiations, Class Representatives were represented by highly experienced counsel with  
15 expertise in the prosecution of complex securities class actions. Similarly, Defendants were represented  
16 by highly experienced counsel from Cooley LLP, a firm with a well-deserved reputation for vigorous  
17 advocacy in the defense of complex civil cases such as this.

18 During the settlement negotiations, the strengths and weaknesses of the parties' respective  
19 claims and defenses were explored among the parties and separately with the mediators. With an  
20 informed understanding of the nuances of the disputed issues in the Litigation, the parties agreed to an  
21 agreement-in-principle to settle the Litigation at the mediation with Mr. Melnick. The Settlement is  
22 therefore *presumptively* fair because it was reached through arm's-length negotiations between highly  
23 experienced securities lawyers with sufficient information to make an intelligent decision on the  
24 propriety of settlement under the supervision of an experienced mediator. *Wershba*, 91 Cal. App. 4th at  
25 245 (“[A] presumption of fairness exists where: (1) the settlement is reached through arm's-length

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>5</sup> See also *Manual for Complex Litigation* §13.14, at 173 (4th ed. 2004) (“First, the judge reviews the  
28 proposal preliminarily to determine whether it is sufficient to warrant public notice and a hearing. If so,  
the final decision on approval is made after the hearing.”).

1 bargaining; (2) investigation and discovery are sufficient to allow counsel and the court to act  
2 intelligently; (3) counsel is experienced in similar litigation; and (4) the percentage of objectors is  
3 small.”) (citation omitted).

4         Second, the Settlement should be preliminarily approved because it has no obvious deficiencies,  
5 does not grant preferential treatment to the Class Representatives, and falls within the range of possible  
6 approval. The Settlement, which provides a substantial cash benefit to the Class of \$6,050,000 is  
7 certainly within the range of reasonableness, especially considering the risks and delay of continued  
8 litigation described below and in the Grant Declaration (¶¶7-11, 33-35). The Net Settlement Fund will  
9 be fairly and equitably distributed to Class Members based on a Plan of Allocation to be approved by  
10 the Court.

11         The reasonableness of the Settlement is further underscored by the inherent complexities of the  
12 litigation and the substantial risks of continued litigation. While Class Representatives believe they could  
13 have prevailed on their §§11 and 15 claims, success at trial was far from certain. Defendants have  
14 vigorously argued that Class Representatives cannot demonstrate the falsity of the challenged statements  
15 made in connection with the Company’s IPO in the Registration Statement. For example, Defendants  
16 would have argued that they were unaware of what Apple’s intentions were with using the Company’s  
17 technology in the iPhone5 or that Apple had in fact even made a decision and that Audience disclosed in  
18 the Registration Statement that Apple was a very important customer that had no obligation to continuing  
19 using Audience’s technology, Apple was able to develop its own or use another company’s technology,  
20 and if Apple did not use Audience’s products, Audience stock price would likely suffer.

21         In addition to proving liability, Class Representatives would have to establish damages. The  
22 amount of damages incurred by Class Members would likely be hotly-contested at trial. At trial, the  
23 damage assessments of Class Representatives’ and Defendants’ experts were sure to vary, and this critical  
24 element would likely be reduced to a “battle of experts.” *In re Tyco Int’l, Ltd.*, 535 F. Supp. 2d 249, 260-  
25 61 (D.N.H. 2007) (“even if the jury agreed to impose liability, the trial would likely involve a confusing  
26 ‘battle of experts’ over damages.”). Moreover, under §11(e) of the Securities Act of 1933, a defendant  
27 can reduce or eliminate damages through showing that the false or misleading statements or omissions  
28 alleged were not the cause of the Class’ loss. Here, Defendants would likely argue that the Class’ loss

1 was attributable not to any misrepresentation but to the announcement of reduced revenue going forward.  
2 Grant Decl., ¶34. Indeed, after years of discovery, issues of loss causation can prove to be at times a  
3 hurdle at summary judgment or at trial.<sup>6</sup> These and other issues would have been heavily challenged and  
4 presented real risks to success at trial. The risk of no recovery or an amount significantly less than Class  
5 Representatives would seek to prove at trial was a real possibility. In light of the ongoing litigation  
6 challenges, as well as the substantial delay of completing fact and expert discovery, the likely summary  
7 judgment motion(s) after the completion of discovery and trial, and even if successful at trial, the likely  
8 appeals that would follow, the substantial and certain recovery of \$6,050,000 represents a highly  
9 favorable result for the Class considering the risk of receiving a much smaller recovery or no recovery at  
10 all if litigation proceeded.

11 Plaintiffs' Counsel, having carefully considered and evaluated, *inter alia*, the relevant legal  
12 authorities and evidence adduced to date that support the claims asserted against Defendants, the  
13 likelihood of prevailing on those claims, the risk, expense, and duration of continued litigation and the  
14 likely appeals and subsequent proceedings necessary if Class Representatives did prevail at trial, have  
15 concluded that the Settlement is clearly fair, reasonable and adequate and in the best interest of the  
16 Class.<sup>7</sup> Plaintiffs' Counsel has significant experience in complex class action litigation and have  
17 negotiated numerous other class action settlements in courts throughout the country. It is well  
18 established that significant weight should be attributed to the belief of experienced counsel that the

19  
20  
21 <sup>6</sup> See *Phillips v. Sci.-Atlanta, Inc.*, 489 F. App'x 339 (11th Cir. 2012) (upholding summary judgment  
22 in favor of defendants on loss causation grounds in a case litigated since 2001); *In re BankAtlantic*  
23 *Bancorp, Sec. Litig.*, No. 07-61542-CIV-UNGARO, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 48057 (S.D. Fla. Apr. 25,  
24 2011) (court granted defendants' judgment as a matter of law on the basis of loss causation, overturning  
25 jury verdict and award in plaintiff's favor), *aff'd*, 688 F.3d 713 (11th Cir. 2012); *Robbins v. Koger*  
26 *Props.*, 116 F.3d 1441 (11th Cir. 1997) (finding no loss causation and overturning \$81 million jury  
27 verdict).

28 <sup>7</sup> See *Odrick v. UnionBanCal Corp.*, No. C 10-5565 SBA, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 171413, at \*8  
(N.D. Cal. Dec. 3, 2012) ("It is neither for the court to reach any ultimate conclusions regarding the  
merits of the dispute, nor to second guess the settlement terms."); *Officers for Justice v. Civil Serv.*  
*Comm'n*, 688 F.2d 615, 625 (9th Cir. 1982) ("[T]he court's intrusion upon what is otherwise a private  
consensual agreement negotiated between the parties to a lawsuit must be limited to the extent  
necessary to reach a reasoned judgment that the agreement is not the product of fraud or overreaching  
by, or collusion between, the negotiating parties, and that the settlement, taken as a whole, is fair,  
reasonable and adequate to all concerned.").

1 settlement is in the best interest of the Class. *See Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.*, 168 Cal. App. 4th  
2 116, 128 (2008).

3 In summary, although Class Representatives and their counsel believe that their case is  
4 meritorious, the Settlement provides a substantial and certain benefit to the Class while eliminating the  
5 risk, expense and uncertainty of continued litigation. *See In re Mfrs. Life Ins. Co. Premium Litig.*, No.  
6 MDL 1109, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23217, at \*17 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 21, 1998) (“even if it is assumed that  
7 a successful outcome for plaintiffs at summary judgment or at trial would yield a greater recovery than  
8 the Settlement – which is not at all apparent – there is easily enough uncertainty in the mix to support  
9 settling the dispute rather than risking no recovery in future proceedings”). An evaluation of the  
10 benefits of the Settlement must also be tempered by the recognition that any compromise involves  
11 concessions on the part of the settling parties. Indeed, the very essence of a settlement agreement is  
12 compromise, “a yielding of absolutes and an abandoning of highest hopes.” *Officers for Justice*, 688  
13 F.2d at 624 (citations omitted).

14 “Naturally, the agreement reached normally embodies a compromise; in exchange for  
15 the saving of cost and elimination of risk, the parties each give up something they might  
16 have won had they proceeded with litigation.”  
17 *Id.* (citation omitted). Accordingly, the possibility that the Class potentially could have achieved a  
18 better recovery after trial does not preclude the Court from finding that the Settlement is within a “range  
19 of reasonableness” that is appropriate for approval.

20 While the parties believe the Settlement merits final approval, the Court need not make that  
21 determination at this time. The Court is being asked to permit notice of the terms of the Settlement to  
22 be given to the Class and schedule a hearing to consider any views by Class Members of the fairness of  
23 the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, counsel’s request for an award of attorneys’ fees and expenses,  
24 and payment of Class Representatives’ time and expenses. Given the complexities of the dispute, the  
25 likely duration of further litigation and the uncertainties inherent in such complex litigation, the  
26 Settlement eliminates the risk that the Litigation would be dismissed without any benefit or relief to the  
27 Class.  
28

1 **V. THE PROPOSED NOTICE PROGRAM SATISFIES DUE PROCESS AND**  
2 **CALIFORNIA LAW**

3 Under California law, notice of settlement must have “a reasonable chance of reaching a  
4 substantial percentage of the class members.” *Wershba*, 91 Cal. App. 4th at 251 (citation omitted).  
5 Importantly, the plaintiff need not demonstrate that each member of the class has received notice. As  
6 long as the notice had a “reasonable chance” of reaching a substantial percentage of class members, it  
7 should be found effective. *Id.* Here, the parties have agreed that the Notice will be disseminated to all  
8 persons who fall within the definition of the Class and whose names and addresses can be identified  
9 from Audience’s transfer records. In addition, the Claims Administrator will send out letters to entities  
10 which commonly hold securities in “street name” as nominees for the benefit of their customers who are  
11 the beneficial purchasers of the common stock. The parties further propose to supplement the mailed  
12 Notice with a Summary Notice to be published in the national edition of *Investor’s Business Daily* and  
13 over the *PR Newswire*. A detailed description of the Notice procedures are set forth in the Declaration  
14 of Peter Crudo Regarding Notice and Administration (“Crudo Decl.”) which is being filed concurrently.  
15 The Notice and Summary Notice are attached to the Stipulation as Exhibits A-1 and A-3, respectively.  
16 The contemplated notice program clearly satisfies California law and the rules of due process. *See, e.g.,*  
17 *Silber v. Mabon*, 18 F.3d 1449, 1453-55 (9th Cir. 1994); *Cartt v. Superior Court*, 50 Cal. App. 3d 960,  
18 974 (1975); *Chavez v. Netflix, Inc.*, 162 Cal. App. 4th 43, 57 (2008) (“trial court ‘has virtually complete  
19 discretion as to the manner of giving notice to class members’”) (citation omitted).

20 The form and substance of the Notice is also sufficient. The “notice given to the class must  
21 fairly apprise the class members of the terms of the proposed compromise and of the options open to  
22 dissenting class members.” *Wershba*, 91 Cal. App. 4th at 251 (citation omitted). Here, the Notice  
23 describes the nature of the litigation; sets forth the definition of the Class; states the Class’ claims; and  
24 discloses the right of Class Members to exclude themselves from the Class, as well as the deadline and  
25 procedure for doing so and warns of the binding effect of the settlement approval proceedings on Class  
26 Members who do not exclude themselves. In addition, the Notice describes the Settlement and the  
27 Settlement Amount; explains the proposed Plan of Allocation; sets out the amount of attorneys’ fees  
28 and expenses that counsel for Class Representatives intend to seek in connection with final settlement

1 approval and the amount that Class Representatives may seek for their time and expenses; provides  
2 contact information for Class Counsel, including a toll-free telephone number; and summarizes the  
3 reasons the parties are proposing the Settlement. The Notice also discloses the date, time, and place of  
4 the formal fairness hearing, and the procedures for objecting to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation,  
5 the payment of Plaintiffs' time and expenses, or counsel's request for attorneys' fees and expenses and  
6 appearing at the hearing. See Exhibits A-1 and A-3 to the Stipulation. The contents of the Notice  
7 therefore satisfy all applicable requirements. See Cal. Rules of Court, Rules 3.766(d) and 3.769(f).

8 Finally, Class Representatives propose that the Court appoint Gilardi & Co. LLC ("Gilardi") as  
9 the Claims Administrator for the Settlement. Gilardi has been a claims administrator for over 25 years  
10 and has the experience and expertise to efficiently and accurately act as the Claims Administrator here.  
11 See Crudo Decl., ¶3 and www.gilardi.com for information about Gilardi's experience and  
12 qualifications.

13 **VI. SCHEDULING THE SETTLEMENT FAIRNESS HEARING AND OTHER**  
14 **EVENTS**

15 Assuming that preliminary approval of the Settlement is granted on the day of the hearing or  
16 shortly thereafter, Class Representatives request the Court to establish dates by which notice of the  
17 Settlement will be sent to Class Members and by which Class Members may object to or opt-out of the  
18 Settlement, and to set the date of the Settlement Fairness Hearing. A proposed schedule of events  
19 leading to the Settlement Fairness Hearing is set forth below.

20 Notice and Proof of Claim mailed to Class Members	Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after execution of the Notice Order ("Notice Date")
21 Summary Notice published	Within ten (10) calendar days of the Notice Date
22 23 Deadline for filing papers in support of the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, 24 Class Counsel's request for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses, and 25 payment of Plaintiffs' time and 26 expenses	At least fourteen (14) calendar days before the deadline for filing objections

1	Deadline for requesting exclusion from the Class and deadline for filing objections to the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, or attorneys' fees and expenses	No later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing
2		
3		
4	Deadline for filing reply papers in support of the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, Class Counsel's request for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses, and payment of Plaintiffs' time and expenses	At least seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing
5		
6		
7		
8	Deadline for submitting Proofs of Claim	No later than ninety (90) days after the Notice Date
9	Settlement Fairness Hearing	During the week of February 22, 2016, or thereafter at the Court's convenience
10		

11 **VII. CONCLUSION**

12 For all of the reasons set forth above, the Settlement is a favorable resolution of this Litigation  
13 and is in the best interest of the Class. Accordingly, Class Representatives respectfully request that the  
14 Court preliminarily approve the Settlement and enter the Notice Order.

15 DATED: October 19, 2015

Respectfully submitted,  
ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN  
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JOHN K. GRANT  
EKATERINI M. POLYCHRONOPOULOS

s/ John K. Grant  


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