

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

MATTHEW KOTILA and ROBERT CRAUN,
individually and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CHARTER FINANCIAL PUBLISHING
NETWORK, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:22-CV-00704-HYJ-RSK

Hon. Hala Y. Jarbou

CLASS ACTION

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Agreement (“Agreement” or “Settlement Agreement”) is entered into by and among (i) Plaintiffs, Matthew Kotila and Robert Craun (“Class Representatives”); (ii) the Settlement Class (as defined herein); and (iii) Defendant, Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc. (“Defendant” or “CFPN”). The Settlement Class and Class Representatives are collectively referred to as the “Plaintiffs” unless otherwise noted. The Class Representatives and the Defendant are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties.” This Agreement is intended by the Parties to fully, finally and forever resolve, discharge, and settle the Released Claims (as defined herein), upon and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and subject to the final approval of the Court.

RECITALS

A. On August 3, 2022, Mr. Matthew Kotila filed a putative class action in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. The material allegations of the complaint centered on Defendant’s alleged disclosure of its customers’ personal information and magazine choices to third parties before July 30, 2016, which Mr. Kotila claimed was without

permission and in violation of Michigan's Preservation of Personal Privacy Act, H.B. 5331, 84th Leg. Reg. Sess., P.A. No. 378 §§ 1-4, *id.* § 5, added by H.B. 4694, 85th Leg. Reg. Sess., P.A. No. 206, § 1 (Mich. 1989) (the "PPPA"). (ECF No. 1.)

B. On September 28, 2022, Mr. Kotila submitted an application for the entry of a default (ECF No. 7), stating that CFPN had failed to appear within the time specified in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1)(A). On October 19, 2022, the Clerk of the Court entered the Default. (ECF No. 12.)

C. On December 2, 2022, Mr. Kotila filed his Motion for Class Certification Pursuant to Rules 23(a) & 23(b)(3), and for Leave to Take Discovery Pursuant to Rule 55(b)(2) (ECF No. 13). On June 5, 2023, the Court entered an Order (ECF No. 17) granting class certification and Mr. Kotila's request to conduct discovery to identify the class members for the purpose of calculating damages. The Court also required Mr. Kotila to file a motion for a default judgment no later than August 16, 2023.

D. Thereafter, Mr. Kotila served numerous subpoenas on third parties seeking customer lists that they had received from CFPN during the relevant time period.

E. On August 16, 2023, Mr. Kotila filed a Motion for Default Judgment Pursuant to Rules 23(b)(3) and 55(b)(2) and Approval of Plaintiff's Class Notice Plan (ECF Nos. 27, 28) (the "Default Judgment Motion").

F. On September 21, 2023, CFPN, through recently appeared counsel, filed a motion to set aside the default pursuant to Rule 55(c). (ECF No. 29.)

G. While the motions were pending, the Parties agreed to participate in a mediation with Tom McNeill, Esq. of Tom McNeill ADR, PLLC.

H. In advance of the mediation, the Parties continued to meet and confer, and exchanged informal discovery, including on the size and scope of the putative class, which includes approximately 2,168 persons, and also exchanged lengthy mediation briefing pertaining to the merits of the case.

I. On December 4, 2023, the Parties participated in a mediation with Mr. McNeill. The mediation lasted the entire day. While the Parties negotiated in good faith, they were unable to reach an agreement that day. However, because significant progress was made, Mr. McNeill made a mediator's proposal at the end of the mediation.

J. On December 6, 2023, the Parties accepted Mr. McNeill's mediator's proposal, reached an agreement on all material terms of a class action settlement, and executed a term sheet.

K. At all times, Defendant has (i) denied and continues to deny any wrongdoing whatsoever and has denied and continues to deny that it committed, or threatened or attempted to commit, any wrongful act or violation of law or duty alleged in the Action and (ii) opposes certification of a litigation class. Defendant believes that the claims asserted in the Action against it do not have merit and that it would have prevailed on a motion to dismiss, at summary judgment, at class certification, and/or at trial. Nonetheless, taking into account the uncertainty and risks inherent in any litigation, Defendant has concluded it is desirable and beneficial that the Action be fully and finally settled and terminated in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement is a compromise, and the Agreement, any related documents, and any negotiations resulting in it shall not be construed as or deemed to be evidence of or an admission or concession of liability or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant, or any of the Released Parties (defined below), with respect to any claim of any fault

or liability or wrongdoing or damage whatsoever or with respect to the certifiability of a litigation class.

L. The Class Representatives believe that the claims asserted in the Action against Defendant have merit and that they would have prevailed at summary judgment and/or trial. Nonetheless, the Class Representatives and Class Counsel recognize that Defendant has raised factual and legal defenses that present a risk that the Class Representatives may not prevail. The Class Representatives and Class Counsel also recognize the expense and delay associated with continued prosecution of the Action against Defendant through a motion to dismiss, summary judgment, class discovery, class certification, trial, and any subsequent appeals. The Class Representatives and Class Counsel also have taken into account the uncertain outcome and risks of litigation, especially in complex class actions, as well as the difficulties inherent in such litigation. Therefore, the Class Representatives believe it is desirable that the Released Claims be fully and finally compromised, settled, and resolved with prejudice. Based on its evaluation, Class Counsel has concluded that the terms and conditions of this Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, and that it is in the best interests of the Settlement Class to settle the claims raised in the Action pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and among Class Representatives, the Settlement Class, and each of them, and Defendant, by and through its undersigned counsel that, subject to final approval of the Court after a hearing or hearings as provided for in this Settlement Agreement, in consideration of the benefits flowing to the Parties from the Agreement set forth herein, that the Action and the Released Claims shall be finally and fully compromised, settled, and released, and the Action shall be dismissed with prejudice, upon

and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

AGREEMENT

1. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Settlement Agreement, the following terms have the meanings specified below:

1.1 “Action” means *Kotila v. Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc.*, Case No. 22-cv-00704-HYJ-RSK , pending in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

1.2 “Alternate Judgment” means a form of final judgment that may be entered by the Court herein but in a form other than the form of Judgment provided for in this Agreement and where none of the Parties elects to terminate this Settlement by reason of such variance.

1.3 “Cash Award” means the cash compensation, payable by the Settlement Administrator from funds provided by Defendant on a pro rata basis, that each Settlement Class Member who has not opted-out of the Settlement shall be entitled to receive, which estimated amount shall be specified in the Notice. Settlement Class Members shall have the option to elect to receive their Cash Awards via check, PayPal, or Venmo, provided however that the default payment method shall be check.

1.4 “Claim Deadline” means 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on the date by which Unidentified Class Members must submit Claim Forms (either electronically on the Settlement Website or by mailing in a paper Claim Form) to be eligible for the benefits described herein, which date and time shall be specified in the Notice.

1.5 “Claim Form” means the claim form attached hereto as Exhibit D, or its substantially similar form, as approved by the Court, that any Unidentified Class Members must complete and submit on or before the Claim Deadline to be eligible for the benefits described

herein, which document shall be submitted to the Court when preliminary approval of the Settlement is sought.

1.6 “**Class Counsel**” means Joseph I. Marchese and Philip L. Fraietta of Bursor & Fisher, P.A., Frank S. Hedin and Arun G. Ravindran of Hedin LLP, and E. Powell Miller of The Miller Law Firm, P.C.

1.7 “**Class List**” means an electronic list or lists from Defendant’s available records that includes the names, last known U.S. Mail addresses, and email addresses, to the extent available, belonging to Persons within the Settlement Class, which shall be provided to the Settlement Administrator with a copy to Class Counsel in accordance with Paragraph 4.1(a).

1.8 “**Class Representatives**” means the named Plaintiffs in this Action, Matthew Kotila and Robert Craun.

1.9 “**Court**” means the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, the Honorable Hala Y. Jarbou presiding, or any judge who shall succeed her as the Judge in this Action.

1.10 “**Defendant**” means Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc.

1.11 “**Defendant’s Counsel**” means T.L. Summerville of Brooks, Wilkins, Sharkey, & Turco, PLLC.

1.12 “**Effective Date**” means the date ten (10) days after which all of the events and conditions specified in Paragraph 9.1 have been met and have occurred.

1.13 “**Escrow Account**” means the separate, interest-bearing escrow account to be established by the Settlement Administrator under terms acceptable to all Parties at a depository institution insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Settlement Fund shall be deposited by Defendant into the Escrow Account in accordance with the terms of this Agreement

and the money in the Escrow Account shall be invested in the following types of accounts and/or instruments and no other: (i) demand deposit accounts and/or (ii) time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, in either case with maturities of forty-five (45) days or less. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Escrow Account shall be paid from the Settlement Fund.

1.14 “Fee Award” means the amount of attorneys’ fees, costs, and reimbursement of expenses awarded by the Court to Class Counsel, which will be paid out of the Settlement Fund.

1.15 “Final” means one business day following the latest of the following events: (i) the date upon which the time expires for filing or noticing any appeal of the Court’s Final Judgment approving the Settlement Agreement; (ii) if there is an appeal or appeals, other than an appeal or appeals solely with respect to the Fee Award, the date of completion, in a manner that finally affirms and leaves in place the Final Judgment without any material modification, of all proceedings arising out of the appeal or appeals (including, but not limited to, the expiration of all deadlines for motions for reconsideration or petitions for review and/or *certiorari*, all proceedings ordered on remand, and all proceedings arising out of any subsequent appeal or appeals following decisions on remand); or (iii) the date of final dismissal of any appeal or the final dismissal of any proceeding on *certiorari*.

1.16 “Final Approval Hearing” means the hearing before the Court where the Parties will request the Final Judgment to be entered by the Court approving the Settlement Agreement, the Fee Award, and the service award to the Class Representative.

1.17 “Final Judgment” means the Final Judgment and Order to be entered by the Court approving the Agreement after the Final Approval Hearing.

1.18 “Michigan Subscriber Information” means the combination of each of a Person’s name, address in the State of Michigan and the title(s) and/or interest information

derived solely from the title of *Financial Advisor*, as well as Defendant's other applicable publications, to which such Person currently subscribes and/or previously subscribed.

1.19 “**Notice**” means the notice of this proposed Class Action Settlement Agreement and Final Approval Hearing, which is to be sent to the Settlement Class substantially in the manner set forth in this Agreement, is consistent with the requirements of Due Process, Rule 23, and is substantially in the form of Exhibits A, B, and C hereto.

1.20 “**Notice Date**” means the date by which the Notice set forth in Paragraph 4.1 is complete, which shall be no earlier than thirty-five (35) days and no later than fifty-six (56) days after Preliminary Approval.

1.21 “**Objection/Exclusion Deadline**” means the date by which a written objection to this Settlement Agreement or a request for exclusion submitted by a Person within the Settlement Class must be made, which shall be designated as a date no later than forty-five (45) days after the Notice Date and no sooner than fourteen (14) days after papers supporting the Fee Award are filed with the Court and posted to the settlement website listed in Paragraph 4.1(d), or such other date as ordered by the Court.

1.22 “**Person**” shall mean, without limitation, any individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, association, joint stock company, estate, legal representative, trust, unincorporated association, and any business or legal entity and their spouses, heirs, predecessors, successors, representatives, or assigns.

1.23 “**Plaintiffs**” means Matthew Kotila, Robert Craun, and the Settlement Class Members.

1.24 “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, preliminary approval of this Settlement Agreement, and approval of the form and manner of the Notice.

1.25 “Preliminary Approval Order” means the order preliminarily approving the Settlement Agreement, certifying the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, and directing notice thereof to the Settlement Class, which will be agreed upon by the Parties and submitted to the Court in conjunction with Plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary approval of the Agreement.

1.26 “Released Claims” means any and all actual, potential, filed, known or unknown, fixed or contingent, claimed or unclaimed, suspected or unsuspected, claims, demands, liabilities, rights, causes of action, contracts or agreements, extra contractual claims, damages, punitive, exemplary or multiplied damages, expenses, costs, attorneys’ fees and or obligations (including “Unknown Claims,” as defined below), whether in law or in equity, accrued or unaccrued, direct, individual or representative, of every nature and description whatsoever, whether based on the PPPA or other state, federal, local, statutory or common law or any other law, rule or regulation, against the Released Parties, or any of them, arising out of any facts, transactions, events, matters, occurrences, acts, disclosures, statements, representations, omissions or failures to act regarding the alleged disclosure of the Settlement Class Members’ personal information or Michigan Subscriber Information, including but not limited to all claims that were brought or could have been brought in the Action relating to any and all Releasing Parties.

1.27 “Released Parties” means Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc., as well as any and all of its respective present or past heirs, executors, estates, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, parent companies, subsidiaries, licensors, licensees, associates, affiliates, employers, agents, consultants, independent contractors, including without limitation employees

of the foregoing, owners, directors, managing directors, officers, partners, principals, members, attorneys, accountants, financial and other advisors, underwriters, shareholders, lenders, auditors, investment advisors, legal representatives, successors in interest, assigns and companies, firms, trusts, and corporations.

1.28 “Releasing Parties” means Class Representatives, those Settlement Class Members who do not timely opt out of the Settlement Class, and all of their respective present or past heirs, executors, estates, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, parent companies, subsidiaries, associates, affiliates, employers, employees, agents, consultants, independent contractors, directors, managing directors, officers, partners, principals, members, attorneys, accountants, financial and other advisors, underwriters, shareholders, lenders, auditors, investment advisors, legal representatives, successors in interest, assigns and companies, firms, trusts, and corporations.

1.29 “Settlement Administration Expenses” means the expenses incurred by the Settlement Administrator in providing Notice (including CAFA notice), processing claims, responding to inquiries from members of the Settlement Class, mailing checks, and related services, 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), as well as all expenses related to the resolution of any disputed claims by Mediator Tom McNeill (as described below in Paragraph 5.3).

1.30 “Settlement Administrator” means JND Legal Administration, or such other reputable administration company that has been selected jointly by the Parties and approved by the Court to perform the duties set forth in this Agreement, including but not limited to serving

as Escrow Agent for the Settlement Fund, overseeing the distribution of Notice, as well as the processing and payments to the Settlement Class as set forth in this Agreement, handing all approved payments out of the Settlement Fund, and handling the determination, payment and filing of forms related to all federal, state and/or local taxes of any kind (including any interest or penalties thereon) that may be owed on any income earned by the Settlement Fund. Class Counsel's assent to this Agreement shall constitute consent on behalf of each and every member of the Settlement Class as defined herein to disclose all information required by the Settlement Administrator to perform the duties and functions ascribed to it herein, consistent with the written consent provisions of the PPPA.

1.31 “Settlement Class” means all Michigan residents who subscribed to any of Defendant's publications before July 31, 2016, and whose name, together with the name of the publication(s) to which they subscribed, were disclosed by Defendant (or any employee or agent of Defendant acting on Defendant's behalf) at any time between April 25, 2016 and July 30, 2016, to any third party without the consent of the subscriber. Excluded from the Settlement Class are (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this Action and members of their families; (2) the Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parent companies, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and their current or former officers, directors, agents, attorneys, and employees; (3) Persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the class; and (4) the legal representatives, successors or assigns of any such excluded persons.

1.32 “Settlement Class Member” means a Person who falls within the definition of the Settlement Class as set forth above and who has not submitted a valid request for exclusion.

1.33 “Settlement Fund” means the non-reversionary cash fund that shall be established by Defendant in the total amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00 USD) to be deposited into the Escrow Account, according to the schedule set forth herein, plus all interest earned thereon. From the Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator shall pay all Cash Awards to Settlement Class Members, Settlement Administration Expenses, any service award to the Class Representatives, any Fee Award to Class Counsel, and any other costs, fees or expenses approved by the Court. The Settlement Fund shall be kept in the Escrow Account with permissions granted to the Settlement Administrator to access said funds until such time as the listed payments are made. The Settlement Fund includes all interest that shall accrue on the sums deposited in the Escrow Account. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for all tax filings with respect to any earnings on the Settlement Fund and the payment of all taxes that may be due on such earnings. The Settlement Fund represents the total extent of Defendant’s monetary obligations under this Agreement. The payment of the Settlement Amount by Defendant fully discharges the Defendant and the other Released Parties’ financial obligations (if any) in connection with the Settlement, meaning that no Released Party shall have any other obligation to make any payment into the Escrow Account or to any Class Member, or any other Person, under this Agreement. The total monetary obligation with respect to this Agreement shall not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00 USD), unless the final count of Settlement Class Members on the Class List following de-duplication by the Settlement Administrator exceeds 2,200 Persons, in which case Defendant shall increase the Settlement Fund by \$455 per additional Settlement Class Member.

1.34 “Settlement Website” means the dedicated website created and maintained by the Settlement Administrator, which will contain relevant documents and information about the

Settlement, including the Settlement Agreement, the long-form Notice and the Claim Form, as well as web-based forms for Settlement Class Members and Unidentified Class Members to submit electronic Claim Forms, requests for exclusion from the Settlement, elections to receive Cash Awards by PayPal or Venmo, or updated postal addresses to which Cash Awards should be sent after the Settlement becomes Final.

1.35 “Unidentified Class Member” means a member of the Settlement Class for whom the Settlement Administrator has *not* been able to identify a postal address that it determines is reasonably likely to be the current place of residence for such member of the Settlement Class.

1.36 “Unknown Claims” means claims that could have been raised in the Action and that any or all of the Releasing Parties do not know or suspect to exist, which, if known by him or her, might affect his or her agreement to release the Released Parties or the Released Claims or might affect his or her decision to agree, object or not to object to the Settlement. Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties shall be deemed to have, and shall have, expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights and benefits of § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties also shall be deemed to have, and shall have, waived any and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, or the law of any jurisdiction outside of the United States, which is similar, comparable or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code. The Releasing Parties acknowledge that they may discover facts in addition to or different from

those that they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of this release, but that it is their intention to finally and forever settle and release the Released Claims, notwithstanding any Unknown Claims they may have, as that term is defined in this Paragraph.

2. SETTLEMENT RELIEF.

2.1 Payments to Settlement Class Members.

(a) Defendant shall pay into the Escrow Account the amount of the Settlement Fund (\$1,000,000.00), specified in Paragraph 1.33 of this Agreement, within sixty (60) days after Final Approval.

(b) Each Settlement Class Member shall receive as a Cash Award a *pro rata* portion of the Settlement Fund, calculated by the Settlement Administrator, after deducting all Settlement Administration Expenses, any Fee Award to Class Counsel, any service award to the Class Representative, and any other costs, fees, or expenses approved by the Court, unless the Settlement Class Member excludes himself or herself from the Settlement.

(c) Except for any Settlement Class Member for whom the Settlement Administrator is unable to identify a postal address or e-mail address that it determines is reasonably likely to be the current place of residence (or an active e-mail address) for such Settlement Class Member, after taking measures reasonably necessary to identify such an address (as detailed further in Paragraph 4.1(b)), each Settlement Class Member will be sent via U.S. postal mail (and/or e-mail to the extent a postal address is unavailable for a Settlement Class Member) a copy of the Class Notice, which will also indicate the estimated amount of the Cash Award that the Settlement Class Member will be paid upon final approval of the Settlement unless the Settlement Class Member opts out of the Settlement.

(d) *Payments to Identified Settlement Class Members.* After final approval of the Settlement, a direct payment by check will be made to each Settlement Class Member who

did not exclude himself or herself and for whom at least one postal address has been identified by the Settlement Administrator that the Settlement Administrator concludes is reasonably likely to reflect the current residence of such Settlement Class Member, after taking measures reasonably necessary to identify such an address, as set forth more fully in Paragraph 4.1(b); to the extent multiple such postal addresses are identified by the Settlement Administrator for a particular Settlement Class Member, such check shall be sent to the address that the Settlement Administrator concludes is the most likely among such multiple addresses to reflect the current residence of such Settlement Class Member. The foregoing direct payment procedure shall apply for all Settlement Class Members for whom a postal address has been identified unless: (i) the Settlement Class Member submits an updated address to which their check should be sent on a web-based form on the Settlement Website, in which case such check will be sent to the updated address that was provided, or (ii) the Settlement Class Member elects to receive payment by PayPal or Venmo by following the procedures on the Settlement Website to make such a request.

(e) *Payments to Unidentified Class Members.* To the extent the Settlement Administrator is unable to identify at least one postal address for any Settlement Class Member that the Settlement Administrator concludes is reasonably likely to reflect the current residence of such Settlement Class Member, then in that event, and only in that event, shall any such Settlement Class Member be required to submit, as clearly explained in the website Notice and the e-mail Notice(s) that the Settlement Administrator will have attempted to send such Settlement Class Member, a qualifying claim form that will include their (1) name; (2) postal address at which they subscribed to Defendant's publications (3) postal address to which their check shall be sent or instructions for payment via PayPal or Venmo; and (4) a telephone number

and/or email address at which the Settlement Administrator may contact him or her to obtain any additional information that may be required to verify such Person's claim.

(f) Each check issued will state on its face that the check will expire and become null and void unless cashed within 180 Days of the date of issuance. To the extent that a check issued to a Settlement Class Member is not cashed within 180 Days after the date of issuance (which issuance shall be no sooner than 5 Days prior to such check's mailing), the check will be void. Payments to all Settlement Class Members who do not exclude themselves from the Settlement shall be made within twenty-eight (28) days after Final Judgment.

(g) To the extent that any checks issued to a Settlement Class Member are not cashed within one-hundred eighty (180) days after the date of issuance, such uncashed check funds shall be redistributed on a *pro rata* basis (after first deducting any necessary settlement administration expenses from such uncashed check funds) to all Settlement Class Members who cashed checks during the initial distribution, but only to the extent each Settlement Class Member would receive at least \$5.00 in any such secondary distribution and if otherwise feasible. To the extent each Settlement Class Member would receive less than \$5.00 in any such secondary distribution or if a secondary distribution would be otherwise infeasible, any uncashed check funds shall, subject to Court approval, revert to the Michigan Bar Foundation's Access to Justice Fund, a non-sectarian, not-for-profit organization, or another non-sectarian, not-for-profit organization(s) recommended by Class Counsel and approved by the Court.

(h) Subject to the provisions pertaining to the termination or cancellation of the Settlement, as set forth in Paragraph 9, no portion of the Settlement Fund shall revert back to Defendant.

3. RELEASE.

3.1 The obligations incurred pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be a full and final disposition of the Action and any and all Released Claims, as against all Released Parties.

3.2 Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties, and each of them, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Claims against the Released Parties, and each of them.

4. NOTICE TO THE CLASS.

4.1 The Notice Plan shall consist of the following:

(a) *Settlement Class List.* No later than twenty-eight (28) days after the execution of this Agreement, Defendant shall, to the best of its ability, produce an electronic list or lists from its available records that includes the names, last known U.S. Mail addresses, and email addresses, to the extent available, belonging to Persons within the Settlement Class. Class Counsel's assent to this Agreement shall constitute consent on behalf of each and every member of the Settlement Class as defined herein to disclose this information as stated in this paragraph, consistent with the written consent provisions of the PPPA. This electronic document shall be called the "Class List," and shall be provided to the Settlement Administrator with a copy to Class Counsel.

(b) *Method for Providing Notice.*

i. The Notice shall provide information to each Settlement Class Member regarding (a) the specific amount of the Cash Award that will be paid to each Settlement Class Member upon final approval; (b) the requirements for the filing of Claim Forms by any Unidentified Settlement Class Members; (c) the amount of the Service Award and the Fee Award to be requested by Plaintiff and Class Counsel; (d) the Objection/Exclusion Deadline and the requirements and process for filing an objection to or a request for exclusion from the

Settlement; and (e) the URL of the Settlement Website, where additional information and documents concerning the Settlement may be obtained.

ii. For every Settlement Class Member for whom the Settlement Administrator has been able to identify a postal address that it concludes has a reasonable likelihood of reflecting the current residence of such Settlement Class Member, as identified by the Settlement Administrator after taking measures reasonably necessary to identify such an address, the Settlement Administrator shall send the Notice to the Settlement Class Member at such address via postal mail.

iii. To the extent multiple postal addresses are identified by the Settlement Administrator as having a reasonable likelihood of reflecting the current residence of a particular Settlement Class Member, Notice shall be sent to all such postal addresses, and each such Notice shall indicate the address to which the Settlement Class Member's Cash Award check will be sent by check at the conclusion of the Settlement administration process; such address shall be the one that the Settlement Administrator concludes is the most likely among such multiple addresses to reflect the current residence of such Settlement Class Member.

iv. For any Settlement Class Member for whom the Settlement Administrator is unable to identify at least one postal address that it concludes has a reasonable likelihood of reflecting the current residence of such Settlement Class Member, the Notice will be delivered to any and all e-mail addresses specified in the Class List or otherwise identified by the Settlement Administrator as being reasonably likely to belong to such Settlement Class Member (after taking measures reasonably necessary to identify such e-mail address(es)).

v. If any Notice sent to a Settlement Class Member is returned as undeliverable, the Settlement Administrator shall redeliver the Notice to any alternative postal

address(es) identified by the Settlement Administrator as having a reasonable likelihood of being the current place of residence for such Settlement Class Member (or, if none is available, to any e-mail address(es) believed to belong to the Settlement Class Member), after taking measures reasonably necessary to locate such addresses.

(c) *Settlement Website.* Within ten (10) days from entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Notice shall be provided on a website at an available settlement URL (such as, for example, www.charterfinancialsettlement.com) which shall be obtained, administered and maintained by the Settlement Administrator and shall include the ability to file Claim Forms online, provided that such Claim Forms, if signed electronically, will be binding for purposes of applicable law and contain a statement to that effect. The Notice provided on the Settlement Website shall be substantially in the form of Exhibit C hereto.

(d) *CAFA Notice.* Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1715, not later than ten (10) days after the Agreement is filed with the Court, the Settlement Administrator shall cause to be served upon the Attorney General of the United States, and any other required government officials, notice of the proposed settlement as required by law, subject to Paragraph 5.1 below.

4.2 The Notice shall advise the Settlement Class of their rights, including the right to be excluded from, comment upon, and/or object to the Settlement Agreement or any of its terms. The Notice shall specify that any objection to the Settlement Agreement, and any papers submitted in support of said objection, shall be considered by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing only if, on or before the Objection/Exclusion Deadline approved by the Court and specified in the Notice, the Person making the objection files notice of an intention to do so and at the same time (a) files copies of such papers he or she proposes to be submitted at the Final Approval Hearing with the Clerk of the Court, or alternatively, if the objection is from a Class

Member represented by counsel, files any objection through the Court's CM/ECF system, and (b) sends copies of such papers by mail, hand, or overnight delivery service to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel.

4.3 Any Settlement Class Member who intends to object to this Agreement must present on a timely basis pursuant to the Court's anticipated Order preliminarily approving the settlement the objection in writing, which must be personally signed by the objector, and must include: (1) the objector's name and address; (2) an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Settlement Class Member, including the title of the publication to which he or she is or was a subscriber; (3) all grounds for the objection, including all citations to legal authority and evidence supporting the objection; (4) the name and contact information of any and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting the objector in connection with the preparation or submission of the objection or who may profit from the pursuit of the objection (the "Objecting Attorneys"); and (5) a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing (either personally or through counsel who files an appearance with the Court in accordance with the Local Rules).

4.4 If a Settlement Class Member or any of the Objecting Attorneys has objected to any class action settlement where the objector or the Objecting Attorneys asked for or received any payment in exchange for dismissal of the objection, or any related appeal, without any modification to the settlement, then the objection must include a statement identifying each such case by full case caption and amount of payment received.

4.5 A Settlement Class Member may request to be excluded from the Settlement Class by sending a timely written request postmarked on or before the Objection/Exclusion Deadline approved by the Court and specified in the Notice. To exercise the right to be

excluded, a Person in the Settlement Class must timely send a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator providing (1) his/her name and address; (2) the title of the publication to which he or she is a subscriber; (3) a signature; (4) the name and number of the case; (5) and a statement that he or she wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class for purposes of this Settlement. A request to be excluded that does not include all of this information, or that is sent to an address other than that designated in the Notice, or that is not postmarked within the time specified, shall be invalid, and the Person(s) serving such a request shall be a member(s) of the Settlement Class and shall be bound as a Settlement Class Member by this Agreement, if approved. Any member of the Settlement Class who validly elects to be excluded from this Agreement shall not: (i) be bound by any orders or the Final Judgment; (ii) be entitled to relief under this Settlement Agreement; (iii) gain any rights by virtue of this Agreement; or (iv) be entitled to object to any aspect of this Agreement. The request for exclusion must be personally signed by each Person requesting exclusion. So-called “mass” or “class” opt-outs shall not be allowed. To be valid, a request for exclusion must be postmarked or received by the date specified in the Notice.

4.6 The Final Approval Hearing shall be no earlier than one hundred eighty (180) days after the Notice described in Paragraph 4.1 is provided.

4.7 Any Settlement Class Member who does not, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, seek exclusion from the Settlement Class or timely file a valid Claim Form when such Claim Form is required shall not be entitled to receive any payment or benefits pursuant to this Agreement, but will otherwise be bound by all of the terms of this Agreement, including the terms of the Final Judgment to be entered in the Action and the

Releases provided for in the Agreement, and will be barred from bringing any action against any of the Released Parties concerning the Released Claims.

5. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

5.1 The Settlement Administrator shall, under the supervision of the Court, administer the relief provided by this Settlement Agreement by processing Claim Forms submitted by Unidentified Class Members, processing requests for exclusion from the Settlement, and disbursing funds from the Settlement Fund in a rational, responsive, cost effective, and timely manner. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain reasonably detailed records of its activities under this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain all such records as are required by applicable law in accordance with its normal business practices and such records will be made available to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel upon request. The Settlement Administrator shall also provide reports and other information to the Court as the Court may require. The Settlement Administrator shall provide Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel with regular reports at weekly intervals containing information concerning Notice, administration, and implementation of the Settlement Agreement. Should the Court request, the Parties shall submit a timely report to the Court summarizing the work performed by the Settlement Administrator, including a report of all amounts from the Settlement Fund paid to Settlement Class Members on account of Approved Claims. Without limiting the foregoing, the Settlement Administrator shall:

(a) Forward to Defendant's Counsel, with copies to Class Counsel, all original documents and other materials received in connection with the administration of the Settlement, and all copies thereof, within thirty (30) days after the date on which all Claim Forms have been finally approved or disallowed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;

(b) Provide Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel with drafts of all administration related documents, including but not limited to CAFA Notices, follow-up class notices or communications with Settlement Class Members, telephone scripts, website postings or language or other communications with the Settlement Class, at least five (5) business days before the Settlement Administrator is required to or intends to publish or use such communications, unless Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel agree to waive this requirement in writing on case by case basis;

(c) Receive Claim Forms from Unidentified Class Members and promptly provide to Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel copies thereof. If the Settlement Administrator receives any Claim Forms after the Claim Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly provide copies thereof to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel;

(d) Receive requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class and other requests and promptly provide to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel copies thereof, along with a weekly report of the number of such requests received. If the Settlement Administrator receives any exclusion forms or other requests after the deadline for the submission of such forms and requests, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly provide copies thereof to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel and await guidance from Counsel as to treatment thereof;

(e) Provide weekly reports to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel, including without limitation, reports regarding the number of Claim Forms received, the number approved by the Settlement Administrator, and the categorization and description of Claim Forms rejected, in whole or in part, by the Settlement Administrator; and

(f) Make available for inspection by Class Counsel or Defendant's Counsel the Claim Forms received by the Settlement Administrator at any time upon reasonable notice.

5.2 The Settlement Administrator shall be obliged to employ reasonable procedures to screen claims for abuse or fraud and deny Claim Forms where there is evidence of abuse or fraud. The Settlement Administrator shall determine whether a Claim Form submitted by a Settlement Class Member is an Approved Claim by determining if the Person is on the Class List and shall reject Claim Forms that fail to (a) comply with the instructions on the Claim Form or the terms of this Agreement, or (b) provide full and complete information as requested on the Claim Form. In the event a Person submits a timely Claim Form by the Claims Deadline where the Person appears on the Class List but the Claim Form is not otherwise complete, then the Settlement Administrator shall give such Person one (1) reasonable opportunity to provide any requested missing information, which information must be received by the Settlement Administrator no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Claims Deadline. In the event the Settlement Administrator receives such information more than thirty (30) days after the Claims Deadline, then any such claim shall be denied. The Settlement Administrator may contact any Person who has submitted a Claim Form to obtain additional information necessary to verify the Claim Form.

5.3 Defendant's Counsel and Class Counsel shall have the right to challenge the acceptance or rejection of a Claim Form submitted by an Unidentified Settlement Class Member, as well as any request for exclusion. The Settlement Administrator shall follow any agreed decisions of Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel as to the validity of any disputed submitted Claim Form or request for exclusion. To the extent Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel are not able to agree on the disposition of a challenge, the disputed claim shall be submitted to Tom McNeill, Esq. of Tom McNeill ADR, PLLC for a binding determination. Mr. McNeill will

charge his hourly rate for providing such services to the Settlement Class, and all expenses related thereto will be paid by the Settlement Administrator from the Settlement Fund.

5.4 In the exercise of its duties outlined in this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator shall have the right to reasonably request additional information from the Parties or any Settlement Class Member.

5.5 Defendant, the Released Parties, and Defendant's Counsel shall have no responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to: (i) any act, omission, or determination by Class Counsel, or the Settlement Administrator, or any of their respective designees or agents, in connection with the administration of the Settlement or otherwise; (ii) the management, investment, or distribution of the Settlement Fund; (iii) the allocation of Settlement Funds to Settlement Class Members or the implementation, administration, or interpretation thereof; (iv) the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any claims asserted against the Settlement Fund; (v) any losses suffered by, or fluctuations in value of, the Settlement Fund; or (vi) the payment or withholding of any Taxes, Tax Expenses, or costs incurred in connection with the taxation of the Settlement Fund or the filing of any federal, state, or local returns.

5.6 All taxes and tax expenses shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund and shall be timely paid by the Settlement Administrator pursuant to this Agreement and without further order of the Court. Any tax returns prepared for the Settlement Fund (as well as the election set forth therein) shall be consistent with this Agreement and in all events shall reflect that all taxes on the income earned by the Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund as provided herein. The Released Parties shall have no responsibility or liability for the acts or

omissions of the Settlement Administrator or its agents with respect to the payment of taxes or tax expenses.

6. TERMINATION OF SETTLEMENT.

6.1 Subject to Paragraphs 9.1-9.3 below, Defendant or the Class Representatives on behalf of the Settlement Class, shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by providing written notice of the election to do so (“Termination Notice”) to all other Parties hereto within twenty-one (21) days of any of the following events: (i) the Court’s refusal to grant Preliminary Approval of this Agreement in any material respect; (ii) the Court’s refusal to grant final approval of this Agreement in any material respect; (iii) the Court’s refusal to enter the Final Judgment in this Action in any material respect; (iv) the date upon which the Final Judgment is modified or reversed in any material respect by an Appellate Court or the Supreme Court; or (v) the date upon which an Alternate Judgment, as defined in Paragraph 9.1(d) of this Agreement is modified or reversed in any material respect by the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

7. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER AND FINAL APPROVAL ORDER.

7.1 Promptly after the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel shall submit this Agreement together with its Exhibits to the Court and shall move the Court for Preliminary Approval of the settlement set forth in this Agreement; certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only; appointment of Class Counsel and the Class Representatives; and entry of a Preliminary Approval Order, which order shall set a Final Approval Hearing date and approve the Notice and Claim Form for dissemination substantially in the form of Exhibits A, B, C, and D hereto. The Preliminary Approval Order shall also authorize the Parties, without further approval from the Court, to agree to and adopt such amendments, modifications and expansions of the Settlement Agreement and its implementing

documents (including all exhibits to this Agreement) so long as they are consistent in all material respects with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and do not limit or impair the rights of the Settlement Class or materially expand the obligations of Defendant.

7.2 At the time of the submission of this Agreement to the Court as described above, Class Counsel shall request that, after Notice is given, the Court hold a Final Approval Hearing and approve the settlement of the Action as set forth herein.

7.3 After Notice is given, the Parties shall request and seek to obtain from the Court a Final Judgment, which will among other things:

(a) find that the Court has personal jurisdiction over all Settlement Class Members and that the Court has subject matter jurisdiction to approve the Agreement, including all exhibits thereto;

(b) approve the Settlement Agreement and the proposed settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to, and in the best interests of, the Settlement Class Members; direct the Parties and their counsel to implement and consummate the Agreement according to its terms and provisions; and declare the Agreement to be binding on, and have *res judicata* and preclusive effect in all pending and future lawsuits or other proceedings maintained by or on behalf of Plaintiffs and Releasing Parties;

(c) find that the Notice implemented pursuant to the Agreement (1) constitutes the best practicable notice under the circumstances; (2) constitutes notice that is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise the Settlement Class of the pendency of the Action, their right to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Agreement, and to appear at the Final Approval Hearing; (3) is reasonable and constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice; and (4) meets all applicable

requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution, and the rules of the Court;

(d) find that the Class Representatives and Class Counsel adequately represent the Settlement Class for purposes of entering into and implementing the Agreement;

(e) dismiss the Action (including all individual claims and Settlement Class Claims presented thereby) on the merits and with prejudice, without fees or costs to any party except as provided in the Settlement Agreement;

(f) incorporate the Release set forth above, make the Release effective as of the date of the Effective Date, and forever discharge the Released Parties as set forth herein;

(g) permanently bar and enjoin all Settlement Class Members who have not been properly excluded from the Settlement Class from filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating (as class members or otherwise) in, any lawsuit or other action in any jurisdiction based on the Released Claims;

(h) without affecting the finality of the Final Judgment for purposes of appeal, retain jurisdiction as to all matters relating to administration, consummation, enforcement, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement and the Final Judgment, and for any other necessary purpose; and

(i) incorporate any other provisions, as the Court deems necessary and just or appropriate to effectuate the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement.

8. CLASS COUNSEL'S ATTORNEYS' FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES; SERVICE AWARD.

8.1 Defendant agrees that Class Counsel is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and unreimbursed expenses incurred as the Fee Award from the Settlement Fund. The amount of the Fee Award shall be determined by the Court based on petition from Class Counsel. Class

Counsel has agreed, with no consideration from Defendant, to limit their request for attorneys' fees and unreimbursed expenses to thirty-five percent (35%) of the Settlement Fund. Defendant may challenge the amounts requested. Should the Court award less than the amount sought by Class Counsel, the difference in the amount sought and the amount ultimately awarded pursuant to this Section shall remain in the Settlement Fund.

8.2 The Fee Award shall be payable by the Settlement Administrator within ten (10) days after entry of the Court's Final Judgment, subject to Class Counsel executing the Undertaking Regarding Attorneys' Fees and Costs (the "Undertaking") attached hereto as Exhibits E-1, E-2, and E-3, and providing all payment routing information and tax I.D. numbers for Class Counsel. Payment of the Fee Award shall be made from the Settlement Fund by wire transfer to Class Counsel, in accordance with the instructions to be jointly provided by Class Counsel, after completion of necessary forms by Class Counsel, including but not limited to W-9 forms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if for any reason the Final Approval Order is reversed or rendered void as a result of an appeal(s) then any persons or firms who shall have received such funds shall be severally liable for payments made pursuant to this subparagraph, and shall return such funds to the Defendant, based upon written instructions provided by Defendant's Counsel. To effectuate this provision, Bursor & Fisher, P.A., Hedin LLP, and The Miller Law Firm, P.C. shall each execute a guarantee of repayment in the forms attached hereto as Exhibits E-1, E-2, and E-3. Additionally, should any parties to the Undertaking dissolve, merge, declare bankruptcy, become insolvent, or cease to exist prior to the final payment to Class Members, those parties shall execute a new undertaking guaranteeing repayment of funds within fourteen (14) days of such an occurrence.

8.3 In addition to any payment to which they may be entitled under this Agreement, and in recognition of the time and effort they expended on behalf the Settlement Class, the Class Representatives shall be paid an incentive award of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), subject to the Court's approval. Should the Court award less than this amount, the difference in the amount sought and the amount ultimately awarded pursuant to this Paragraph shall remain in the Settlement Fund. Such award shall be paid from the Settlement Fund (in the form of a check to the Class Representatives that is sent to the care of Class Counsel), within five (5) business days after entry of the Final Judgment if there have been no objections to the Settlement Agreement, and, if there have been such objections, within five (5) business days after the Effective Date.

9. CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT, EFFECT OF DISAPPROVAL, CANCELLATION OR TERMINATION.

9.1 The Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement shall not occur unless and until each of the following events occurs and shall be the date upon which the last (in time) of the following events occurs:

- (a) The Parties and their counsel have executed this Agreement;
- (b) The Court has entered the Preliminary Approval Order;
- (c) The Court has entered an order finally approving the Agreement,

following Notice to the Settlement Class and a Final Approval Hearing, as provided in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and has entered the Final Judgment, or a judgment consistent with this Agreement in all material respects; and

(d) The Final Judgment has become Final, as defined above, or, in the event that the Court enters an Alternate Judgment, such Alternate Judgment becomes Final.

9.2 If some or all of the conditions specified in Paragraph 9.1 are not met, or in the event that this Agreement is not approved by the Court, or the settlement set forth in this

Agreement is terminated or fails to become effective in accordance with its terms, then this Settlement Agreement shall be canceled and terminated subject to Paragraph 6.1 unless Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel mutually agree in writing to proceed with this Agreement. If any Party is in material breach of the terms hereof, any other Party, provided that it is in substantial compliance with the terms of this Agreement, may terminate this Agreement on notice to all of the Settling Parties. Notwithstanding anything herein, the Parties agree that the Court's failure to approve, in whole or in part, the attorneys' fees payment to Class Counsel and/or the service award set forth in Paragraph 8 above shall not prevent the Agreement from becoming effective, nor shall it be grounds for termination.

9.3 If this Agreement is terminated or fails to become effective for the reasons set forth in Paragraphs 6.1 and 9.1-9.2 above, the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Action as of the date of the signing of this Agreement, unless Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel mutually agree in writing to proceed with the Agreement. In such event, any Final Judgment or other order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of this Agreement shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*, and the Parties shall be returned to the *status quo ante* with respect to the Action as if this Agreement had never been entered into. Within five (5) business days after written notification of termination as provided in this Agreement is sent to the other Parties, the Settlement Fund (including accrued interest thereon), less any Settlement Administration costs actually incurred, paid or payable and less any taxes and tax expenses paid, due or owing, shall be refunded by the Settlement Administrator to Defendant based upon written instructions provided by Defendant's Counsel. In the event that the Final Settlement Order and Judgment or any part of it is vacated, overturned, reversed, or rendered void as a result of an appeal, or the Settlement Agreement is voided, rescinded, or

otherwise terminated for any other reason, Class Counsel shall, within thirty (30) days repay to Defendant based upon written instructions provided by Defendant's Counsel, the full amount of the attorneys' fees and costs paid to Class Counsel from the Settlement Fund, including any accrued interest. In the event the attorneys' fees and costs awarded by the Court or any part of them are vacated, modified, reversed, or rendered void as a result of an appeal, Class Counsel shall within thirty (30) days repay to Defendant based upon written instructions provided by Defendant's Counsel, the attorneys' fees and costs paid to Class Counsel and/or Class Representatives from the Settlement Fund, in the amount vacated or modified, including any accrued interest.

10. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

10.1 The Parties (a) acknowledge that it is their intent to consummate this Settlement Agreement; and (b) agree, subject to their fiduciary and other legal obligations, to cooperate to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate and implement all terms and conditions of this Agreement, to exercise their reasonable best efforts to accomplish the foregoing terms and conditions of this Agreement, to secure final approval, and to defend the Final Judgment through any and all appeals. Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel agree to cooperate with one another in seeking Court approval of the Settlement Agreement, entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, and the Final Judgment, and promptly to agree upon and execute all such other documentation as may be reasonably required to obtain final approval of the Agreement.

10.2 The Parties intend this Settlement Agreement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes between them with respect to the Released Claims by the Class Representatives, the Settlement Class and each or any of them, on the one hand, against the Released Parties, and each or any of the Released Parties, on the other hand. Accordingly, the Parties agree not to assert in any forum that the Action was brought by Plaintiffs or defended by

Defendant, or each or any of them, in bad faith or without a reasonable basis. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed to prevent any employee of Defendant or any Released Party, or any independent contractor working in a reporting or newsgathering capacity for Defendant or any Released Party, from reporting on the Action or this Settlement.

10.3 The Parties have relied upon the advice and representation of counsel, selected by them, concerning their respective legal liability for the claims hereby released. The Parties have read and understand fully the above and foregoing agreement and have been fully advised as to the legal effect thereof by counsel of their own selection and intend to be legally bound by the same.

10.4 Whether or not the Effective Date occurs or the Settlement Agreement is terminated, neither this Agreement nor the settlement contained herein or any term, provision or definition therein, nor any act or communication performed or document executed in the course of negotiating, implementing or seeking approval pursuant to or in furtherance of this Agreement or the settlement:

(a) is, may be deemed, or shall be used, offered or received in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency, arbitral proceeding or other tribunal against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, as an admission, concession or evidence of, the validity of any Released Claims, the truth of any fact alleged by the Plaintiffs, the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Action, the violation of any law or statute, the definition or scope of any term or provision, the reasonableness of the settlement amount or the Fee Award, or of any alleged wrongdoing, liability, negligence, or fault of the Released Parties, or any of them;

(b) is, may be deemed, or shall be used, offered or received against any Released Party, as an admission, concession or evidence of any fault, misrepresentation or omission with respect to any statement or written document approved or made by the Released Parties, or any of them;

(c) is, may be deemed, or shall be used, offered or received against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, as an admission or concession with respect to any liability, negligence, fault or wrongdoing or statutory meaning (including but not limited to the definitions of Michigan Subscriber Information and Settlement Class) as against any Released Parties, or supporting the certification of a litigation class, in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency or other tribunal. However, the settlement, this Agreement, and any acts performed and/or documents executed in furtherance of or pursuant to this Agreement and/or Settlement may be used in any proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Agreement. Further, if this Settlement Agreement is approved by the Court, any Party or any of the Released Parties may file this Agreement and/or the Final Judgment in any action that may be brought against such Party or Parties in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim;

(d) is, may be deemed, or shall be construed against Class Representatives, the Settlement Class, the Releasing Parties, or each or any of them, or against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, as an admission or concession that the consideration to be given hereunder represents an amount equal to, less than or greater than that amount that could have or would have been recovered after trial; and

(e) is, may be deemed, or shall be construed as or received in evidence as an admission or concession against Class Representatives, the Settlement Class, the Releasing Parties, or each and any of them, or against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, that any of the Class Representatives' claims are with or without merit or that damages recoverable in the Action would have exceeded or would have been less than any particular amount.

10.5 The Parties acknowledge that (a) any certification of the Settlement Class as set forth in this Agreement, including certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes in the context of Preliminary Approval, shall not be deemed a concession that certification of a litigation class is appropriate, or that the Settlement Class definition would be appropriate for a litigation class, nor would Defendant be precluded from challenging class certification in further proceedings in the Action or in any other action if the Settlement Agreement is not finalized or finally approved; (b) if the Settlement Agreement is not finally approved by the Court for any reason whatsoever, then any certification of the Settlement Class will be void, the Parties and the Action shall be restored to the *status quo ante*, and no doctrine of waiver, estoppel or preclusion will be asserted in any litigated certification proceedings in the Action or in any other action; and (c) no agreements made by or entered into by Defendant in connection with the Settlement may be used by the Class Representatives, any person in the Settlement Class, or any other person to establish any of the elements of class certification in any litigated certification proceedings, whether in the Action or any other judicial proceeding.

10.6 No person or entity shall have any claim against the Class Representatives, Class Counsel, the Settlement Administrator or any other agent designated by Class Counsel, or the Released Parties and/or their counsel, arising from distributions made substantially in accordance with this Agreement. The Parties and their respective counsel, and all other Released Parties

shall have no liability whatsoever for the investment or distribution of the Settlement Fund or the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any claim or nonperformance of the Settlement Administrator, the payment or withholding of taxes (including interest and penalties) owed by the Settlement Fund, or any losses incurred in connection therewith.

10.7 All proceedings with respect to the administration, processing and determination of Claims and the determination of all controversies relating thereto, including disputed questions of law and fact with respect to the validity of Claims, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.

10.8 The headings used herein are used for the purpose of convenience only and are not meant to have legal effect.

10.9 The waiver by one Party of any breach of this Agreement by any other Party shall not be deemed as a waiver of any other prior or subsequent breaches of this Agreement.

10.10 All of the Exhibits to this Agreement are material and integral parts thereof and are fully incorporated herein by this reference.

10.11 This Agreement and its Exhibits set forth the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the matters set forth herein, and supersede all prior negotiations, agreements, arrangements and undertakings with respect to the matters set forth herein. No representations, warranties or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Settlement Agreement or its Exhibits other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in such documents. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by or on behalf of all Parties or their respective successors-in-interest.

10.12 Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall bear its own costs.

10.13 Class Representatives represent and warrant that they have not assigned any claim or right or interest therein as against the Released Parties to any other Person or Party and that they are fully entitled to release the same.

10.14 Each counsel or other Person executing this Settlement Agreement, any of its Exhibits, or any related settlement documents on behalf of any Party hereto, hereby warrants and represents that such Person has the full authority to do so and has the authority to take appropriate action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to the Agreement to effectuate its terms.

10.15 This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. Signature by digital means, facsimile, or in PDF format will constitute sufficient execution of this Agreement. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. A complete set of original executed counterparts shall be filed with the Court if the Court so requests.

10.16 This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties hereto and the Released Parties.

10.17 The Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement, and all Parties hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of implementing and enforcing the settlement embodied in this Agreement.

10.18 This Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

10.19 This Agreement is deemed to have been prepared by counsel for all Parties, as a result of arm's-length negotiations among the Parties. Because all Parties have contributed

substantially and materially to the preparation of this Agreement, it shall not be construed more strictly against one Party than another.

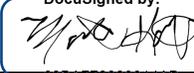
10.20 Where this Agreement requires notice to the Parties, such notice shall be sent to the undersigned counsel: Philip L. Fraietta, Bursor & Fisher, P.A., 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019; T.L. Summerville, Brooks, Wilkins, Sharkey, & Turco PLLC, 401 S. Old Woodward Avenue, Suite 400, Birmingham, MI 48009.

**[REMAINDER OF THE PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK, SIGNATURE
PAGE(S) TO FOLLOW]**

IT IS SO AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES:

Dated: 2/15/2024

MATTHEW KOTILA

DocuSigned by:

By: _____
63BA772820814AB...

Matthew Kotila, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: _____

ROBERT CRAUN

By: _____

Robert Craun, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: _____

CHARTER FINANCIAL PUBLISHING NETWORK, INC.

By: _____

Name
Its:
Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc.

IT IS SO STIPULATED BY COUNSEL:

Dated: _____

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

By: _____

Joseph I. Marchese
jmarshese@bursor.com
Philip L. Fraietta
pfraietta@bursor.com
BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

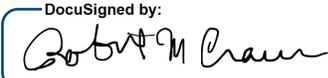
IT IS SO AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES:

Dated: _____ **MATTHEW KOTILA**

By: _____

Matthew Kotila, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: 2/15/2024 _____ **ROBERT CRAUN**

By:  _____
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Robert Craun, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: _____ **CHARTER FINANCIAL PUBLISHING NETWORK, INC.**

By: _____

Name
Its:
Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc.

IT IS SO STIPULATED BY COUNSEL:

Dated: _____ **BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.**

By: _____

Joseph I. Marchese
jmarshese@bursor.com
Philip L. Fraietta
pfraietta@bursor.com
BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

IT IS SO AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES:

Dated: _____

MATTHEW KOTILA

By: _____

Matthew Kotila, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: _____

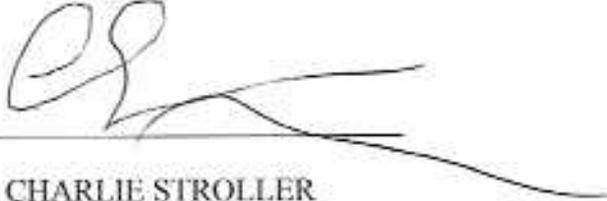
ROBERT CRAUN

By: _____

Robert Craun, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: 2/15/24

CHARTER FINANCIAL PUBLISHING NETWORK, INC.

By: 

Name CHARLIE STROLLER
Its: CHARIMAN AND CEO
Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc.

IT IS SO STIPULATED BY COUNSEL:

Dated: _____

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

By: _____

Joseph I. Marchese
jmarshese@bursor.com
Philip L. Fraietta
pfraietta@bursor.com
BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

IT IS SO AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES:

Dated: _____

MATTHEW KOTILA

By: _____

Matthew Kotila, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: _____

ROBERT CRAUN

By: _____

Robert Craun, individually and as representative of the Class

Dated: _____

CHARTER FINANCIAL PUBLISHING NETWORK, INC.

By: _____

Name
Its:
Charter Financial Publishing Network, Inc.

IT IS SO STIPULATED BY COUNSEL:

Dated: 2/15/2024

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

DocuSigned by:
Philip L. Fraietta
By: _____
56A858C9D599422

Joseph I. Marchese
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Philip L. Fraietta
pfraietta@bursor.com
BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Tel: (646) 837-7142
Fax: (212) 989-9163

Dated: 2/15/2024

HEDIN LLP

DocuSigned by:
Frank S. Hedin
By: _____
Frank S. Hedin
fhedin@hedinllp.com
Arun G. Ravindran
aravindran@hedinllp.com
HEDIN LLP
1395 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1140
Miami, Florida 33131
Tel: (305) 357-2107
Fax: (305) 200-8801

Dated: _____

THE MILLER LAW FIRM, P.C.

By: _____
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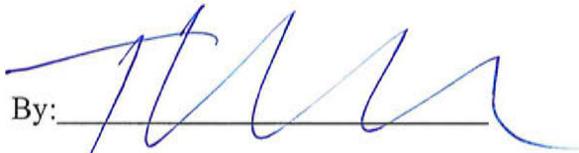
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