

EXECUTION VERSION

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

IN RE NIELSEN HOLDINGS PLC  
SECURITIES LITIGATION

Civil Action No. 1:18-cv-07143-JMF

**STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT OF SETTLEMENT**

This Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement (the “Stipulation” or “Settlement Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between Lead Plaintiff Public Employees’ Retirement System of Mississippi (“MissPERS” or “Lead Plaintiff”) and additionally named Plaintiff Monroe County Employees’ Retirement System (“Monroe,” and with MissPERS, “Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all other members of the proposed Settlement Class (defined below), on the one hand, and Defendants Nielsen Holdings plc (“Nielsen” or the “Company”), Dwight Mitchell Barns, Kelly Abcarian, and Jamere Jackson (the “Individual Defendants,” and together with Nielsen the “Defendants,” and together with both Nielsen and Plaintiffs the “Parties”), on the other, by and through their counsel of record in the above-captioned litigation pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”). This Stipulation is intended by the Parties to fully, finally, and forever resolve, discharge, and settle the Released Claims as against the Released Defendant Parties and the Released Defendants’ Claims as against the Released Plaintiff Parties (each of these terms as defined below), upon and subject to the terms and conditions hereof and subject to the Court’s approval.

**WHEREAS:**

A. All words or terms used herein that are capitalized shall have the meanings ascribed to those words or terms herein and in ¶1 hereof entitled “Definitions.”

B. On August 8, 2018, a securities class action complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, styled *Gordon v. Nielsen Holdings PLC, et. al.* No. 1:18-cv-07143 (the “S.D.N.Y. Action”). ECF No. 1. The complaint asserted claims (1) against all Defendants for violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder; and (2) against all Individual Defendants for violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. Plaintiff asserted such claims on behalf of all persons who purchased or acquired Nielsen common stock during a class period of February 8, 2018 through July 25, 2018, inclusive.

C. The S.D.N.Y. Action was assigned to Judge John F. Keenan and Magistrate Judge Debra C. Freeman on August 9, 2018.

D. On September 21, 2018, a securities class action complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, styled *Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 60 Pension Trust v. Nielsen Holdings PLC*, No. 1:18-cv-12046 (the “N.D. Ill. Action”). The complaint asserted claims (1) against all Defendants for violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder; and (2) against all Individual Defendants for violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. Plaintiff asserted such claims on behalf of all persons who purchased or acquired Nielsen common stock during a class period of February 11, 2016 through July 25, 2018, inclusive.

E. The N.D. Ill. Action was assigned to Judge Virginia M. Kendall and Magistrate Judge M. David Weisman on September 21, 2018.

F. On October 9, 2018, Macomb County Employees' Retirement System, Electrical Workers Pension Trust Fund of IBEW Local Union No. 58 and Monroe moved to serve as lead plaintiffs in the S.D.N.Y. Action. ECF No. 26. That same day, MissPERS also moved to serve as lead plaintiff in the S.D.N.Y. Action. ECF No. 30. Both movants also requested that the N.D. Ill. Action be consolidated into the S.D.N.Y. Action.

G. On December 17, 2018, the N.D. Ill. Action was transferred to the Southern District of New York.

H. On May 31, 2019, the S.D.N.Y. Action was re-assigned to Judge Jesse M. Furman.

I. On April 22, 2019, MissPERS filed a proposed stipulation for appointment of MissPERS as Lead Plaintiff, consolidation of the N.D. Ill. Action into the S.D.N.Y. Action, retitling of the S.D.N.Y. Action as "*In re Nielsen Holdings PLC Securities Litigation*," (the "Action") and for approval of MissPERS's selection of Labaton Sucharow LLP as Lead Counsel for the class. ECF No. 50. The stipulation noted that all other movants had either withdrawn their motions to serve as lead plaintiff or had filed non-oppositions to MissPERS's appointment as Lead Plaintiff. On April 22, 2019, the Court entered an order giving effect to the stipulation. ECF No. 53.

J. On June 21, 2019, Lead Plaintiff filed an Amended Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws (the "Amended Complaint"). ECF No. 60. The Amended Complaint asserted claims (1) against all Defendants pursuant to Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder; and (2) against the Individual Defendants and former Nielsen employee Steve Hasker pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. Lead Plaintiff asserted such claims on behalf of all persons who purchased or acquired Nielsen common stock during a class period of February 11, 2016 through July 25, 2018, inclusive. The Amended Complaint also

named Monroe as an additionally named plaintiff and its counsel Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP as counsel for Monroe and additional counsel for the proposed class.

K. On July 12, 2019, by stipulation entered by the Court (ECF No. 62), Lead Plaintiff filed a Corrected Amended Complaint for Violations of Federal Securities Laws (ECF No. 63, the “Corrected Amended Complaint”), making substantially the same allegations as the Amended Complaint with minor corrections.

L. On September 6, 2019, Defendants filed a motion to dismiss the Corrected Amended Complaint. ECF No. 67.

M. On September 27, 2019, Lead Plaintiff filed a Second Amended Complaint for violations of the Federal Securities Laws (“Second Amended Complaint”) against Defendants, which was substantially similar to the prior Corrected Amended Complaint, but modified certain of the allegations. ECF No. 72. Lead Plaintiff alleged misstatements and omissions in connection with: (i) the financial performance of Nielsen’s “Buy” business, (ii) alleged trends affecting Nielsen’s “Buy” business, (iii) Nielsen’s valuation of the goodwill of its “Buy” business, and (iv) alleged effects of the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) on Nielsen’s business.

N. On November 26, 2019, Defendants filed a motion to dismiss the Second Amended Complaint. ECF No. 75. On January 27, 2020, Lead Plaintiff opposed the motion to dismiss. ECF No. 82. On February 26, 2020, Defendants filed a reply in further support of their motion to dismiss. ECF No. 83.

O. On January 4, 2021, the Court ruled on the motion to dismiss. ECF No. 85. The Court dismissed certain claims in the Second Amended Complaint, while sustaining other claims.

P. On February 12, 2021, Defendants filed an Answer to the Second Amended Complaint. ECF No. 98.

Q. During the course of the Action, the Parties engaged in extensive discovery. In response to document requests, Lead Plaintiff received over 90,000 documents from Defendants amounting to a total of over 490,000 pages. In response to subpoenas, Lead Plaintiff received over 45,000 documents from 29 non-parties, amounting to a total of over 390,000 pages. Lead Plaintiff and Monroe produced over 2,000 documents, amounting to a total of over 40,000 pages. In addition, representatives and investment managers of MissPERS and Monroe sat for six depositions taken by Defendants. Defendants also deposed Lead Plaintiff's market efficiency expert, Mr. Chad Coffman, the President of Global Economics Group, a firm that specializes in the application of economics, finance, statistics, and valuation principles to claims of economic damages, regarding issues of damages and market efficiency. Lead Plaintiff conducted a 30(b)(6) deposition of Nielsen, with three different individuals sitting for depositions on behalf of Nielsen. Lead Plaintiff also took depositions of 11 additional current or former employees of Nielsen before the case settled.

R. On July 15, 2021, Lead Plaintiff moved for class certification, seeking to certify both MissPERS and Monroe as class representatives and seeking to certify a class of all persons and entities that purchased or otherwise acquired Nielsen publicly traded common stock during the period from July 26, 2016 through July 25, 2018, inclusive. ECF Nos. 102-04. An expert report by Chad Coffman was filed in support of the motion for class certification.

S. On October 18, 2021, Defendants filed an opposition to Lead Plaintiff's motion for class certification. ECF No. 112. An expert report by Dr. Paul A. Gompers, Eugene Holman

Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, was also submitted in opposition to Lead Plaintiff's motion for class certification. ECF No. 113.

T. On December 14, 2021, the Parties participated in a full-day mediation session before retired United States District Court Judge Layn R. Phillips of Phillips ADR (the "Mediator"). In advance of that session, the Parties provided detailed mediation statements and exhibits to the Mediator, which addressed issues of liability, class certification, and damages. The Parties also participated in individual sessions with the Mediator and/or his staff and answered questions from the Mediator about the Action. No agreement was reached at the December 14, 2021 mediation session.

U. On December 17, 2021, Lead Plaintiff filed a reply in further support of its motion for class certification. ECF No. 128.

V. On January 5, 2022, the Parties participated in another joint mediation session and presented on specific issues in the case. Following these presentations, the Parties continued negotiating toward a potential settlement.

W. On February 2, 2022, the Mediator made a formal mediator's proposal that the case settle for \$73 million. The Parties accepted this proposal and subsequently began negotiating a term sheet and this settlement agreement. This Stipulation, together with the exhibits hereto and the Supplemental Agreement defined in ¶39(a) below, constitute the final and binding agreement between the Parties.

X. Plaintiffs believe that the claims and allegations in the Action have merit and that the information developed to date supports the claims and allegations asserted. However, Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel have taken into account the uncertain outcome and the risk of any litigation, especially in complex actions such as the Action, as well as the difficulties and delays inherent in

such litigation. Lead Counsel also is mindful of the inherent problems of proof and the defenses to the claims alleged in the Action. Based upon their investigation, prosecution, and mediation of the case, Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel have concluded that the terms and conditions of this Stipulation are fair, reasonable and adequate to Plaintiffs and the other members of the proposed Settlement Class, and in their best interests. Based on Plaintiffs' direct oversight of the prosecution of this matter, and with the advice of their counsel, Plaintiffs have agreed to settle, release and dismiss with prejudice all claims asserted in the Action pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Stipulation, after considering, among other things: (a) the substantial financial benefit that Plaintiffs and the other members of the Settlement Class will receive under the proposed Settlement; and (b) the significant risks and costs of continued litigation and trial.

Y. Defendants have denied and continue to deny any wrongdoing or that they have committed any act or omission giving rise to any liability or violation of law, including the U.S. securities laws, and are entering into this Stipulation solely to avoid and eliminate the burden, expense, uncertainty, and risk of further litigation, as well as the business disruption associated therewith. Each Defendant has expressly denied and continues to deny all allegations of wrongdoing or liability arising out of any of the conduct, statements, acts or omissions alleged, or that could have been alleged, in the Action, including, but not limited to, all contentions concerning Defendants' business, conduct and public statements, as well as contentions that any such conduct or events constitute wrongdoing or give rise to legal liability. Defendants also have denied and continue to deny, *inter alia*, the allegations that Plaintiffs or Settlement Class Members have suffered damages or were otherwise harmed in any way by any of the Defendants or by the conduct alleged in the Action. Defendants further have asserted and continue to assert that, at all times, they acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in accordance with

applicable rules, regulations, and laws. Nonetheless, Defendants have determined that it is desirable and beneficial to them that the Action be settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Stipulation to avoid the further expense, inconvenience, and burden of this Action, the distraction and diversion of personnel and resources, and to obtain the conclusive and final dismissal and/or release of this Action, as to them, and the Released Claims. Further, this Stipulation, whether or not consummated, together with any proceedings related to settlement, whether or not consummated, shall in no event be construed as or deemed to be evidence supporting, or an admission or concession on the part of any Defendant or Released Defendant Party with respect to, any claim or of any fault or liability or wrongdoing or damage whatsoever, or any infirmity in any of the defenses that any of the Defendants have or could have asserted.

**NOW THEREFORE**, without any concession by Plaintiffs that the Action lacks merit, and without any concession by the Defendants of any liability or wrongdoing or lack of merit in their defenses, it is hereby **STIPULATED AND AGREED**, by and among the parties to this Stipulation, through their respective attorneys, subject to approval by the Court pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that, in consideration of the benefits flowing to the Parties hereto, all Released Claims and all Released Defendants' Claims, as against all Released Parties, shall be fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, released, waived, discharged, and dismissed with prejudice, and without costs, upon and subject to the following terms and conditions:

#### **DEFINITIONS**

1. As used in this Stipulation, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below. In the event of any inconsistency between any definition set forth below and any definition in any other document related to the Settlement, the definition set forth below shall control.



(a) “Action” or “Litigation” means the civil action captioned *In re Nielsen Holdings PLC Sec. Litig.*, No. 1:18-cv-07143-JMF, pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York before the Honorable Jesse M. Furman, United States District Judge, or any judge subsequently assigned, including any and all civil actions consolidated therewith.

(b) “Alternative Judgment” means a form of final judgment that may be entered by the Court but in a form other than the form of Judgment provided for in this Stipulation and where none of the Parties hereto elects to terminate this Settlement by reason of such variance.

(c) “Authorized Claimant” means a Settlement Class Member who submits a valid Proof of Claim to the Claims Administrator that is accepted for payment.

(d) “Claims Administrator” means the firm to be retained by Lead Counsel, subject to Court approval, to provide all notices approved by the Court to Settlement Class Members, to process Proofs of Claim, and to administer the Settlement.

(e) “Class Period” means the period from February 11, 2016 through July 25, 2018, inclusive.

(f) “Court” means the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

(g) “Defendants” means Nielsen Holdings plc, Dwight Mitchell Barns, Kelly Abcarian, and Jamere Jackson.

(h) “Defendants’ Counsel” means the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP.

(i) “Effective Date” means the date upon which the Settlement shall have become effective, as set forth in ¶37 below.

(j) “Escrow Account” means the separate escrow account at Citibank, N.A. (Private Bank) that is established to receive the Settlement Amount for the benefit of the Settlement Class pursuant to this Stipulation and subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.

(k) “Escrow Agent” means Labaton Sucharow LLP and its successor(s).

(l) “Fee and Expense Application” means Lead Counsel’s application, on behalf of all Plaintiffs’ Counsel (defined below), for an award of attorneys’ fees and payment of litigation expenses incurred in prosecuting the case, including any award to Plaintiffs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4) of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

(m) “Final,” with respect to a court order, including the proposed Judgment or Alternative Judgment, means the later of: (i) the expiration of the time provided for filing or noticing any appeal under the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, *i.e.*, currently thirty (30) days after entry of the court order, with no appeal being filed; or (ii) if there is an appeal from a court order or a motion to alter or amend the order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e), (a) the date of final dismissal of all such appeals, or the final dismissal of any proceeding on certiorari or otherwise, or (b) the date the judgment or order is finally affirmed on appeal by the expiration of the time to file a petition for a writ of certiorari or other form of review with no such petition or other form of review being sought, or the denial of a writ of certiorari or other form of review, and, if *certiorari* is granted or further review is sought, the date of final affirmance following review pursuant to that grant. However, any appeal or proceeding seeking subsequent judicial review pertaining solely to the Plan of Allocation, or to the Court’s award of attorneys’ fees or expenses to Plaintiffs’ Counsel, shall not in any way delay or affect the time set forth above for the Judgment or Alternative Judgment to become Final or otherwise preclude the Judgment or Alternative Judgment from becoming Final.

(n) “Immediate Family” means children, stepchildren, parents, stepparents, spouses, siblings, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law. As used in this paragraph, “spouse” shall mean a husband, a wife, or a partner in a state-recognized domestic relationship or civil union.

(o) “Individual Defendants” means Dwight Mitchell Barns, Kelly Abcarian, and Jamere Jackson.

(p) “Judgment” means the proposed judgment to be entered by the Court approving the Settlement, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B.

(q) “Lead Counsel” means Labaton Sucharow LLP.

(r) “Lead Plaintiff” means Public Employees’ Retirement System of Mississippi.

(s) “Net Settlement Fund” means the Settlement Fund less: (i) Court-awarded attorneys’ fees and expenses to Plaintiffs’ Counsel; (ii) Notice and Administration Expenses; (iii) Taxes; and (iv) any other fees or expenses approved by the Court.

(t) “Notice” means the long-form Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action and Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses to be sent to Settlement Class Members, which, subject to approval of the Court, shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-1.

(u) “Notice and Administration Expenses” means all costs, fees, and expenses incurred in connection with providing notice to the Settlement Class and the administration of the Settlement, including but not limited to: (i) providing notice of the proposed Settlement by mail, publication, and other means to Settlement Class Members; (ii) receiving and reviewing claims; (iii) applying the Plan of Allocation; (iv) communicating with Persons regarding the proposed

Settlement and claims administration process; (v) distributing the proceeds of the Settlement; and (vi) fees related to the Escrow Account and investment of the Settlement Fund.

(v) “Person(s)” means any individual, corporation (including all divisions and subsidiaries), general or limited partnership, association, joint stock company, joint venture, limited liability company, professional corporation, estate, legal representative, trust, unincorporated association, government or any political subdivision or agency thereof, and any other business or legal entity.

(w) “Plaintiffs’ Counsel” means Labaton Sucharow LLP, Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, and Vanoverbeke Michaud & Timmony.

(x) “Plan of Allocation” means any plan for the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund. No Plan of Allocation is part of the Stipulation and the Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility or liability with respect thereto.

(y) “Preliminary Approval Order” means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, which, subject to the approval of the Court, shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

(z) “Proof of Claim” or “Claim Form” means the Proof of Claim and Release form for submitting a claim, which, subject to approval of the Court, shall be substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A-2.

(aa) “Released Claims” means any and all claims, rights, liabilities, suits, debts, obligations, demands, damages, losses, judgments and causes of action of every nature and description, whether known or Unknown (as defined below), contingent or absolute, mature or not mature, liquidated or unliquidated, accrued or not accrued, concealed or hidden, regardless of legal or equitable theory and whether arising under federal, state, common, or foreign law, that Plaintiffs

or any other member of the Settlement Class: (a) asserted in the Action; or (b) could have asserted in the Action or any forum that arise out of, are based upon, or relate to, both (1) the allegations, transactions, facts, matters or occurrences, representations or omissions involved, set forth, or referred to in any of the complaints filed in the Action and (2) the purchase or acquisition of Nielsen publicly traded common stock during the Class Period. For the avoidance of doubt, Released Claims do not include: (1) claims to enforce the Settlement; or (2) claims in any present or future derivative litigation, including, without limitation, *Marilyn Clark v. Dwight M. Barns*, No. 650506/2019 (NY Sup. Ct. filed Jan. 25, 2019).

(bb) “Released Defendant Parties” means Defendants, Steve Hasker, and each of their respective past or present or future predecessors, successors, parent corporations, sister corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, principals, assigns, assignors, legatees, devisees, executors, administrators, estates, heirs, spouses, Immediate Family, receivers and trustees, settlors, beneficiaries, officers, directors, members, shareholders, employees, independent contractors, servants, agents, partners, insurers, reinsurers, representatives, attorneys, legal representatives, auditors, accountants, advisors, and successors-in-interest, in their capacities as such.

(cc) “Released Defendants’ Claims” means any and all claims and causes of action of every nature and description, including both known claims and Unknown Claims (as defined below), whether arising under federal, state, common or foreign law, or any other law, that Defendants could have asserted against any of the Released Plaintiff Parties that arise out of or relate in any way to the institution, prosecution, or settlement of the claims in the Action. Released Defendants’ Claims do not include: (1) claims to enforce the Settlement; or (2) claims in any present or future derivative litigation, including, without limitation, *Marilyn Clark v. Dwight M. Barns*, No. 650506/2019 (NY Sup. Ct. filed Jan. 25, 2019).

(dd) “Released Parties” means the Released Defendant Parties and the Released Plaintiff Parties.

(ee) “Released Plaintiff Parties” means each and every Settlement Class Member, Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’ Counsel, and each of their respective past or present or future trustees, officers, directors, partners, employees, affiliates, contractors, auditors, principals, agents, attorneys, advisors, predecessors, successors, assigns, insurers, parents, subsidiaries, general or limited partners or partnerships, and limited liability companies; and the spouses, Immediate Family, representatives, and heirs of any Released Plaintiff Party who is an individual, in their capacities as such, as well as any trust of which any Released Plaintiff Party is the settlor or that is for the benefit of any of their Immediate Family. Released Plaintiff Parties does not include any Person excluded from the definition of the Settlement Class or Settlement Class Member, including any Person who timely and validly seeks exclusion from the Settlement Class.

(ff) “Settlement” means the resolution of the Action in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Stipulation.

(gg) “Settlement Amount” means the total principal amount of seventy-three million U.S. dollars (\$73,000,000) in cash.

(hh) “Settlement Class” or “Settlement Class Member” means all persons and entities that purchased or otherwise acquired Nielsen publicly traded common stock during the period from February 11, 2016 through July 25, 2018, inclusive, and were damaged thereby. Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (i) Defendants; (ii) members of the Immediate Family of any Individual Defendant; (iii) any person who was an officer or director of Nielsen during the Class Period; (iv) any firm, trust, corporation, or other entity in which any Defendant has or had a controlling interest; (v) affiliates of Nielsen, including its employee retirement and benefit plan(s)

and their participants or beneficiaries, to the extent they made purchases through such plan(s); (vi) the legal representatives, affiliates, heirs, successors-in-interest, or assigns of any such excluded person; and (vii) any persons or entities who or which exclude themselves by submitting a timely and valid request for exclusion that is accepted by the Court.

(ii) “Settlement Fund” means the Settlement Amount and any interest or income earned thereon.

(jj) “Settlement Hearing” means the hearing to be held by the Court to determine, *inter alia*, whether the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved.

(kk) “Stipulation” means this Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement.

(ll) “Summary Notice” means the Summary Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action and Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses for publication, which, subject to approval of the Court, shall be substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A-3.

(mm) “Taxes” means all federal, state, or local taxes of any kind on any income earned by the Settlement Fund and the expenses and costs incurred in connection with the taxation of the Settlement Fund (including, without limitation, interest, penalties and the reasonable expenses of tax attorneys and accountants).

(nn) “Unknown Claims” means any and all Released Claims that Plaintiffs and any other members of the Settlement Class do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of the Released Defendant Parties, and any and all Released Defendants’ Claims that any Defendant does not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of the Released Plaintiff Parties, which if known by him, her, or it might have affected his, her, or its decision(s) with respect to the Settlement, including the decision to object to the

terms of the Settlement or to exclude himself, herself, or itself from the Settlement Class. With respect to any and all Released Claims and Released Defendants' Claims, the Parties stipulate and agree that, upon the Effective Date, Plaintiffs and Defendants shall expressly, and each Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment shall have expressly waived and relinquished any and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or foreign law, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to Cal. Civ. Code § 1542, which provides:

**A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.**

Plaintiffs, other Settlement Class Members, or Defendants may hereafter discover facts, legal theories, or authorities in addition to or different from those which any of them now knows, suspects, or believes to be true with respect to the Action, the Released Claims, or the Released Defendants' Claims, but Plaintiffs and Defendants shall expressly, fully, finally, and forever settle and release, and each Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever settled and released, and upon the Effective Date and by operation of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment shall have settled and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Claims and Released Defendants' Claims as applicable, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities. Plaintiffs and Defendants acknowledge, and all Settlement Class Members by operation of law shall be deemed to have acknowledged, that the inclusion of "Unknown Claims" in the definition of Released Claims and Released Defendants' Claims was separately bargained for and was a material element of the Settlement.



**SCOPE AND EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT**

2. The obligations incurred pursuant to this Stipulation are (a) subject to approval by the Court and the Judgment, or Alternative Judgment, reflecting such approval becoming Final; and (b) in full and final disposition of the Action with respect to the Released Parties and any and all Released Claims and Released Defendants' Claims.

3. By operation of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment, as of the Effective Date, each of the Plaintiffs, and each of the other Settlement Class Members, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment shall have, on behalf of themselves and each of their respective heirs, executors, trustees, administrators, legal representatives, predecessors, successors, and assigns, in their capacities as such, shall have fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, released, relinquished, waived, and discharged any and all of the Released Claims against each of the Released Defendant Parties, and shall forever be barred and enjoined from prosecuting any and all of the Released Claims against any of the Released Defendant Parties.

4. By operation of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment, as of the Effective Date, each of the Defendants, on behalf of themselves and each of their respective heirs, executors, trustees, administrators, legal representatives, predecessors, successors, and assigns, in their capacities as such, shall have fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, released, relinquished, waived, and discharged any and all of the Released Defendants' Claims against each of the Released Plaintiff Parties, and shall forever be barred and enjoined from prosecuting any and all of the Released Defendants' Claims against any of the Released Plaintiff Parties.

**THE SETTLEMENT CONSIDERATION**

5. In full settlement of the claims asserted in the Action against Defendants and in consideration of the release of the Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, all of

which the Parties agree are good and valuable consideration, Defendants shall pay, or cause to be paid, the Settlement Amount into the Escrow Account within thirty (30) calendar days of the later of: (i) receipt by Defendants' counsel of complete payment instructions (including a W-9 form) for the escrow account, and (ii) entry of an order granting preliminary approval of the proposed settlement by the Court, following execution of the below-defined Supplemental Agreement and the filing of the executed Stipulation and its exhibits.

6. Plaintiffs and each of the Settlement Class Members shall look solely to the Settlement Fund as satisfaction of all claims that are released hereunder. With the sole exception of Defendants' obligation to secure payment of the Settlement Amount into the Escrow Account as provided for in ¶5, and Defendants' obligations under ¶¶20 and 35, Defendants and Defendants' Counsel shall have no obligation to pay any additional amounts, nor any responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to: (i) fees, expenses, costs, Taxes, liability or damages whatsoever alleged or incurred by Plaintiffs or any Settlement Class Member, or by any of their attorneys, experts, advisors, agents or representatives with respect to the Action and Released Claims; (ii) any act, omission, or determination by Plaintiffs' Counsel or the Claims Administrator, or any of their respective designees or agents, in connection with the administration of the Settlement or otherwise; (iii) the management, investment, distribution, or allocation of the Settlement Fund; (iv) any Plan of Allocation; (v) the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any claims asserted against the Settlement Fund; (vi) any loss suffered by, or fluctuation in value of, the Settlement Fund; or (vii) the payment or withholding of any Taxes, expenses, and/or costs incurred in connection with the taxation of the Settlement Fund, distributions or other payments from the Escrow Account, or the filing of any federal, state, or local tax returns.

7. Other than the obligation of Defendants to cause the payment of the Settlement Amount pursuant to ¶5, Defendants shall have no obligation to make or cause to be made any other payments into the Escrow Account or to any Settlement Class Member or Plaintiffs' Counsel in settlement of the Action or pursuant to this Stipulation.

**USE AND TAX TREATMENT OF SETTLEMENT FUND**

8. The Settlement Fund shall be used: (i) to pay any Taxes; (ii) to pay Notice and Administration Expenses; (iii) to pay any attorneys' fees and expenses of Plaintiffs' Counsel awarded by the Court and any awards to Plaintiffs; (iv) to pay any other fees and expenses awarded by the Court; and (v) to pay the claims of Authorized Claimants. The Escrow Agent shall not disburse the Settlement Fund, or any portion thereof, except as provided in this Stipulation, or upon Order of the Court.

9. The Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Authorized Claimants as provided in ¶¶21-33 hereof. The Net Settlement Fund shall remain in the Escrow Account prior to the Effective Date. All funds held in the Escrow Account, and all interest and earnings thereon, shall be deemed to be in the custody of the Court and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court until such time as the funds shall have been disbursed or returned, pursuant to the terms of this Stipulation, and/or further order of the Court. The Escrow Agent shall invest funds in the Escrow Account in instruments backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government (or a mutual fund invested solely in such instruments), or deposit some or all of the funds in non-interest-bearing transaction account(s) that are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") in amounts that are up to the limit of FDIC insurance. Defendants and Defendants' Counsel shall have no responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to investment decisions executed by the Escrow Agent. All investment risks of the Settlement Fund shall be borne solely by the Settlement Fund.

10. After the Settlement Amount has been paid into the Escrow Account, the Parties agree to treat the Settlement Fund as a “qualified settlement fund” within the meaning of Treas. Reg. §1.468B-1. All provisions of this Stipulation shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Settlement Fund being a “qualified settlement fund” within the meaning of Treasury Regulation §1.468B-1. In addition, the Escrow Agent shall timely make, or cause to be made, such elections as necessary or advisable to carry out the provisions of this ¶10, including the “relation-back election” (as defined in Treas. Reg. §1.468B-1) back to the earliest permitted date. Such election shall be made in compliance with the procedures and requirements contained in such regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the Escrow Agent to timely and properly prepare and deliver, or cause to be prepared and delivered, the necessary documentation for signature by all necessary parties, and thereafter take all such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to cause the appropriate filing(s) to timely occur. Consistent with the foregoing:

(a) For the purposes of Section 468B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and Treas. Reg. §1.468B promulgated thereunder, the “administrator” shall be the Escrow Agent or its successors, who shall timely and properly file, or cause to be filed, all federal, state, or local tax returns and information returns (together, “Tax Returns”) necessary or advisable with respect to the earnings on the funds deposited in the Escrow Account (including without limitation the returns described in Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-2(k)). Such Tax Returns (as well as the election described above) shall be consistent with this subparagraph and in all events shall reflect that all Taxes (including any estimated taxes, earnings, or penalties) on the income earned on the funds deposited in the Escrow Account shall be paid out of such funds as provided in subparagraph (c) of this ¶10.

(b) All Taxes shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund. In all events, Defendants and Defendants' Counsel shall have no liability or responsibility whatsoever for the Taxes or the filing of any Tax Return or other document with the Internal Revenue Service or any other state or local taxing authority or any expenses associated therewith. Defendants shall have no liability or responsibility for the Taxes of the Escrow Account with respect to the Settlement Amount nor the filing of any Tax Returns or other documents with the Internal Revenue Service or any other taxing authority. In the event any Taxes are owed by any of the Defendants on any earnings on the funds on deposit in the Escrow Account, such amounts shall also be paid out of the Settlement Fund.

(c) Taxes with respect to the Settlement Fund and the Escrow Account shall be treated as, and considered to be, a cost of administration of the Settlement and shall be timely paid, or caused to be paid, by the Escrow Agent out of the Settlement Fund without prior order from the Court or approval by Defendants. The Escrow Agent shall be obligated (notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary) to withhold from distribution to Authorized Claimants any funds necessary to pay such amounts (as well as any amounts that may be required to be withheld under Treas. Reg. §1.468B-2(1)(2)). The Parties agree to cooperate with each other, and their tax attorneys and accountants to the extent reasonably necessary, to carry out the provisions of this ¶10.

11. This is not a claims-made settlement. As of the Effective Date, Defendants, and/or any other Person funding the Settlement on a Defendant's behalf, shall not have any right to the return of the Settlement Fund or any portion thereof for any reason.

**ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES**

12. Lead Counsel, on behalf of all Plaintiffs' Counsel, will apply to the Court for an award from the Settlement Fund of attorneys' fees and payment of expenses incurred in

prosecuting the Action, including any earnings on such amounts at the same rate and for the same periods as earned by the Settlement Fund.

13. Any attorneys' fees and expenses awarded by the Court shall be paid from the Settlement Fund to Lead Counsel immediately after entry of the order awarding such attorneys' fees and expenses and entry of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment, or as otherwise ordered by the Court, notwithstanding the existence of any timely filed objections thereto or to the Settlement, or potential for appeal therefrom, or collateral attack on the Fee and Expense Application, the Settlement, or any part thereof. Lead Counsel shall allocate any Court-awarded attorneys' fees and expenses among Plaintiffs' Counsel.

14. Any payment of attorneys' fees and expenses pursuant to ¶¶12-13 above shall be subject to Plaintiffs' Counsel's obligation to make refunds or repayments to the Settlement Fund of any paid amounts, plus accrued earnings at the same rate as is earned by the Settlement Fund, if any, if the Settlement is terminated pursuant to the terms of this Stipulation or fails to become effective for any reason, or if, as a result of any appeal or further proceedings on remand or successful collateral attack, the award of attorneys' fees and/or expenses is reduced or reversed by Final non-appealable court order. Plaintiffs' Counsel shall make the appropriate refund or repayment no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receiving notice of the termination of the Settlement pursuant to this Stipulation, notice from a court of appropriate jurisdiction of the disapproval of the Settlement by Final non-appealable court order, or notice of any reduction or reversal of the award of attorneys' fees and/or expenses by Final non-appealable court order.

15. With the sole exception of Defendants' obligation to cause the payment of the Settlement Amount into the Escrow Account as provided for in ¶5, Defendants shall have no

responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to, any payment whatsoever to Plaintiffs' Counsel in the Action that may occur at any time.

16. Defendants shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to, any allocation of any attorneys' fees or expenses among Plaintiffs' Counsel in the Action, or to any other Person who may assert some claim thereto, or any fee or expense awards the Court may make in the Action.

17. Defendants shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to any attorneys' fees, costs, or expenses incurred by or on behalf of Settlement Class Members, whether or not paid from the Escrow Account. The Settlement Fund will be the sole source of payment from Defendants for any award of attorneys' fees and expenses ordered by the Court.

18. The procedure for and the allowance or disallowance by the Court of any Fee and Expense Application are not part of the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation, and any order or proceeding relating to any Fee and Expense Application, including an award of attorneys' fees or expenses in an amount less than the amount requested by Lead Counsel, or any appeal from any order relating thereto or reversal or modification thereof, shall not operate to terminate or cancel the Stipulation, or affect or delay the finality of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment approving the Stipulation and the Settlement set forth herein, including, but not limited to, the release, discharge, and relinquishment of the Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, or any other orders entered pursuant to the Stipulation. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel may not cancel or terminate the Stipulation or the Settlement in accordance with ¶38 or otherwise based on any objection or appeal with respect to fees or expenses awarded in the Action or the Court's or an appellate court's ruling with respect to fees and expenses awarded in the Action.

**NOTICE AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES**

19. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Net Settlement Fund shall be held in the Escrow Account until the Effective Date.

20. Prior to the Effective Date, and after the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order, without further approval from Defendants or further order of the Court, Lead Counsel may pay from the Settlement Fund reasonable Notice and Administration Expenses actually incurred of up to \$450,000.00. Additional amounts may be paid before the Effective Date upon approval from Defendants or order of the Court. Taxes may be paid as incurred without further order of the Court or approval of Defendants. After the Effective Date of the Settlement, without further approval of Defendants or further order of the Court, Notice and Administration Expenses may be paid as incurred. Defendants shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to, notice to the Settlement Class or any Notice and Administrative Expenses, except that Defendants shall be responsible for providing any required notice under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”), if any, at their own expense.

**DISTRIBUTION TO AUTHORIZED CLAIMANTS**

21. The Claims Administrator, subject to such supervision and direction of Lead Counsel and/or the Court as may be necessary or as circumstances may require, shall administer the Settlement in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation, the Court-approved Plan of Allocation, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. Defendants and Defendants’ Counsel shall have no responsibility for (except as stated in ¶¶ 5 and 35 hereof), interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to the administration of the Settlement or the actions or decisions of the Claims Administrator and shall have no liability to the Settlement Class in connection with such administration.



22. The Claims Administrator shall determine each Authorized Claimant's *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund based upon each Authorized Claimant's recognized loss, as defined in the Plan of Allocation included in the Notice, or in such other Plan of Allocation as the Court may approve.

23. Defendants have no role in the development of, and will take no position with respect to, the Plan of Allocation. The Plan of Allocation is a matter separate and apart from the proposed Settlement, and any decision by the Court concerning the Plan of Allocation shall not affect the validity or finality of the proposed Settlement. The Plan of Allocation is not a necessary term of this Stipulation, and it is not a condition of this Stipulation that any particular Plan of Allocation be approved by the Court. Neither Plaintiffs nor Plaintiffs' Counsel may cancel or terminate the Stipulation or the Settlement in accordance with ¶38 or otherwise based on the Court's or any appellate court's ruling with respect to the Plan of Allocation or any Plan of Allocation in the Action. Neither Defendants nor Defendants' Counsel shall have any responsibility or liability for reviewing or challenging claims, the allocation of the Net Settlement Fund, or the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund.

24. Upon the Effective Date and thereafter, and in accordance with the terms of the Stipulation, the Plan of Allocation, or such further approval and further order(s) of the Court as may be necessary or as circumstances may require, the Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Authorized Claimants whose recognized claim computes to \$10.00 or more.

25. If there is any balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund (whether by reason of tax refunds, uncashed checks or otherwise) after a reasonable amount of time from the date of initial distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, and after payment of outstanding Notice and Administration Expenses, Taxes, attorneys' fees and expenses, and any awards to Plaintiffs, the

Claims Administrator shall, if feasible, reallocate (which reallocation may occur on multiple occasions) such balance among Authorized Claimants who have cashed their checks in an equitable and economic fashion. Thereafter, any *de minimis* balance that still remains in the Net Settlement Fund after re-distribution(s) and after payment of outstanding Notice and Administration Expenses, Taxes, and attorneys' fees and expenses and any awards to Plaintiffs, shall be donated to the Investor Protection Trust, or a non-profit and non-sectarian organization(s) chosen by the Court.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE SETTLEMENT**

26. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to submit a valid Proof of Claim (substantially in the form of Exhibit A-2) will not be entitled to receive any of the proceeds from the Net Settlement Fund, except as otherwise ordered by the Court, but will otherwise be bound by all of the terms of this Stipulation and the Settlement, including the terms of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment to be entered in the Action and all releases provided for herein, and will be permanently barred and enjoined from bringing any action against the Released Defendant Parties concerning the Released Claims.

27. Lead Counsel shall be responsible for supervising the administration of the Settlement and disbursement of the Net Settlement Fund by the Claims Administrator. Lead Counsel shall have the discretion, but not the obligation, to advise the Claims Administrator to waive what Lead Counsel deem to be *de minimis* or formal or technical defects in any Proof of Claim submitted, or to accept untimely claims if distribution of the Net Settlement Fund will not be materially delayed thereby. Lead Counsel shall bear no responsibility for the exercise or non-exercise of this discretion. Defendants and Defendants' Counsel shall have no liability, obligation or responsibility for the administration of the Settlement, the allocation of the Net Settlement Fund, or the reviewing or challenging claims. Lead Counsel shall be solely responsible for designating

the Claims Administrator, subject to approval by the Court.

28. For purposes of determining the extent, if any, to which a claimant shall be entitled to be treated as an Authorized Claimant, the following conditions shall apply:

(a) Each claimant shall be required to submit a Proof of Claim, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-2, supported by such documents as are designated therein, including proof of the claimant's loss, or such other documents or proof as the Claims Administrator or Lead Counsel, in their discretion, may deem acceptable;

(b) All Proofs of Claim must be submitted by the date set by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order and specified in the notices, unless such deadline is extended by Lead Counsel in its discretion or by Order of the Court. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to submit a Proof of Claim by such date shall be barred from receiving any distribution from the Net Settlement Fund or payment pursuant to this Stipulation (unless, by Order of the Court or the discretion of Lead Counsel, late-filed Proofs of Claim are accepted), but shall in all other respects be bound by all of the terms of this Stipulation and the Settlement, including the terms of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment and all releases provided for herein, and will be permanently barred and enjoined from bringing any action, claim or other proceeding of any kind asserting any Released Claim against any Released Defendant Party. A Proof of Claim shall be deemed to be submitted when mailed, if received with a postmark on the envelope and if mailed by first-class or overnight U.S. Mail and addressed in accordance with the instructions thereon. In all other cases, the Proof of Claim shall be deemed to have been submitted when actually received by the Claims Administrator;

(c) Each Proof of Claim shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Claims Administrator, under the supervision of Lead Counsel, which shall determine in accordance with this Stipulation the extent, if any, to which each claim shall be allowed;

(d) Proofs of Claim that do not meet the submission requirements may be rejected. Prior to rejecting a Proof of Claim in whole or in part, the Claims Administrator shall communicate with the claimant in writing to give the claimant the chance to remedy any curable deficiencies in the Proof of Claim submitted. The Claims Administrator, under supervision of Lead Counsel, shall notify, in writing, all claimants whose claims the Claims Administrator proposes to reject in whole or in part, setting forth the reasons therefor, and shall indicate in such notice that the claimant whose claim is to be rejected has the right to a review by the Court if the claimant so desires and complies with the requirements of subparagraph (e) below; and

(e) If any claimant whose timely claim has been rejected in whole or in part desires to contest such rejection, the claimant must, within twenty (20) calendar days after the date of mailing of the notice required in subparagraph (d) above, or a lesser period of time if the claim was untimely, serve upon the Claims Administrator a notice and statement of reasons indicating the claimant's grounds for contesting the rejection along with any supporting documentation, and requesting a review thereof by the Court. If a dispute concerning a claim cannot be otherwise resolved, Lead Counsel shall thereafter present the request for review to the Court.

29. Each claimant who submits a Proof of Claim shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to the claimant's claim, including but not limited to, all releases provided for herein and in the Judgment or Alternative Judgment, and the claim will be subject to investigation and discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, provided that such investigation and discovery shall be limited to the claimant's status as a Settlement Class

Member and the validity and amount of the claimant's claim. In connection with processing the Proofs of Claim, no discovery shall be allowed on the merits of the Action or the Settlement.

30. Payment pursuant to the Stipulation and Court-approved Plan of Allocation shall be deemed final and conclusive against any and all claimants. All Settlement Class Members whose claims are not approved shall be barred from participating in distributions from the Net Settlement Fund, but otherwise shall be bound by all of the terms of this Stipulation and the Settlement, including the terms of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment to be entered in the Action and the releases provided for herein and therein, and will be permanently barred and enjoined from bringing any action against the Released Defendant Parties concerning the Released Claims.

31. All proceedings with respect to the administration, processing and determination of claims described by this Stipulation 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, but shall not in any event delay or affect the finality of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment.

32. No Person shall have any claim of any kind against the Released Defendant Parties or Defendants' Counsel with respect to the matters set forth in this section (*i.e.*, ¶¶26-33) or any of its subsections, or otherwise related in any way to the administration of the Settlement, including without limitation the processing of claims and distributions.

33. No Person shall have any claim against Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' Counsel, or the Claims Administrator, or other agent designated by Lead Counsel, based on the distributions made substantially in accordance with this Stipulation and the Settlement contained herein, the Plan of Allocation, or further order(s) of the Court.

**TERMS OF THE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER**

34. Concurrently with their application for preliminary approval by the Court of the Settlement contemplated by this Stipulation and promptly upon execution of this Stipulation, Lead Counsel shall apply to the Court for entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, which shall be substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A. The Preliminary Approval Order will, *inter alia*, preliminarily approve the Settlement, certify the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, set the date for the Settlement Hearing, approve the form of notice, and prescribe the method for giving notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class.

35. Nielsen shall provide to Lead Counsel or the Claims Administrator, at no cost to Plaintiffs or the Settlement Class, within ten (10) calendar days of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, its transfer records in electronic searchable form (such as Excel) of the names and addresses of Persons who purchased Nielsen publicly traded common stock during the Class Period.

**TERMS OF THE JUDGMENT**

36. If the Settlement contemplated by this Stipulation is approved by the Court, Lead Counsel and Defendants' Counsel shall jointly request that the Court enter a Judgment substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit B.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF SETTLEMENT**

37. The Effective Date of this Settlement shall be the first business day on which all of the following shall have occurred or been waived:

- (a) entry of the Preliminary Approval Order in all material respects in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A;
- (b) payment of the Settlement Amount into the Escrow Account;

(c) Defendants have not exercised their option to terminate the Settlement under ¶¶38-39;

(d) approval by the Court of the Settlement, following notice to the Settlement Class, as prescribed by Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; and

(e) a Judgment, substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit B annexed hereto, has been entered by the Court and has become Final; or in the event that an Alternative Judgment has been entered, the Alternative Judgment has become Final.

### **WAIVER OR TERMINATION**

38. Defendants and Lead Plaintiff shall each have the right to terminate the Settlement and this Stipulation by providing written notice of their election to do so (“Termination Notice”), through counsel, to all other Parties hereto, within fourteen (14) calendar days of: (i) the Court’s Final refusal to enter the Preliminary Approval Order in any material respect; (ii) the Court’s Final refusal to approve this Stipulation or any material part of it; (iii) the Court’s Final refusal to enter (a) the Judgment in any material respect or (b) an Alternative Judgment that is acceptable to the Parties; or (iv) the date upon which the Judgment or Alternative Judgment is modified or reversed in any material respect by a Final order of the Court, the United States Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court of the United States. For the avoidance of doubt, Lead Plaintiff shall not have the right to terminate the Settlement due to any decision, ruling, or order respecting the Fee and Expense Application or any Plan of Allocation.

39. In addition to the foregoing, Defendants shall also have the right, which must be exercised collectively, to withdraw from the Settlement in the event the Termination Threshold (defined below) has been reached.

(a) Simultaneously herewith, Defendants’ Counsel and Plaintiffs’ Counsel are executing a confidential Supplemental Agreement Regarding Requests for Exclusion

(“Supplemental Agreement”). The Supplemental Agreement sets forth certain conditions under which Defendants shall have the right, which must be exercised collectively, to terminate the Settlement and render this Stipulation null and void in the event that requests for exclusion from the Settlement Class exceed certain agreed-upon criteria (the “Termination Threshold”). The Parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of the Supplemental Agreement, which shall not be filed with the Court unless a dispute arises as to its terms, or as otherwise ordered by the Court, nor shall the Supplemental Agreement otherwise be disclosed unless ordered by the Court. If submission of the Supplemental Agreement is required for resolution of a dispute or is otherwise ordered by the Court, the Parties will undertake to have the Termination Threshold submitted to the Court *in camera* or under seal. In the event of a termination of this Settlement pursuant to the Supplemental Agreement, this Stipulation shall become null and void and of no further force and effect, with the exception of the provisions of ¶¶45-47 which shall continue to apply.

40. The Preliminary Approval Order, attached hereto as Exhibit A, shall provide that requests for exclusion shall be received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing. Upon receiving any request for exclusion or a written retraction of such a request, Lead Counsel shall promptly, and certainly no later than five (5) calendar days after receiving a request for exclusion or a written retraction of such a request, notify Defendants’ Counsel of such request for exclusion, or written retraction of a request for exclusion, and provide copies of such requests for exclusion or retractions and any documentation accompanying them by email.

41. In addition to all of the rights and remedies that Plaintiffs have under the terms of this Stipulation, Lead Plaintiff shall also have the right to terminate the Settlement in the event that the Settlement Amount has not been paid in the time period provided for in ¶5 above, but only if



Lead Plaintiff has first provided written notice of the election to terminate to all other Parties and, thereafter, there is a failure to pay the Settlement Amount within ten (10) business days of such written notice.

42. Nielsen warrants, as to the payments made or to be made on behalf of Defendants, that, at the time of entering into this Stipulation and at the time of such payments, Nielsen will not be insolvent, nor will payment render it insolvent, within the meaning of and/or for the purposes of the United States Bankruptcy Code, including Sections 101 and 547 thereof. This representation is made by Nielsen and not by Defendants' Counsel.

43. If, before the Settlement becomes Final, a court of competent jurisdiction enters a final order determining that the transfer of money or any portion thereof to the Settlement Fund by or on behalf of Defendants was a preference, voidable transfer, fraudulent transfer, or similar transaction; and any portion thereof is required to be returned, and such amount is not promptly deposited into the Settlement Fund by others, then, at the election of Lead Plaintiff, the Parties shall jointly move the Court to vacate and set aside the releases given and the Judgment or Alternative Judgment entered in favor of the Defendants and the Parties shall be restored to their litigation positions on February 3, 2022.

44. If an option to withdraw from and terminate this Stipulation and Settlement arises under any of ¶¶38-43 above: (i) neither Defendants nor Lead Plaintiff (as the case may be) will be required for any reason or under any circumstance to exercise that option; and (ii) any exercise of that option shall be made in good faith, but in the sole and unfettered discretion of Defendants or Lead Plaintiff, as applicable.

45. With the exception of the provisions of this paragraph and ¶46 which shall continue to apply, in the event the Settlement is terminated as set forth herein or cannot become effective

for any reason, then the Settlement shall be without prejudice, and none of its terms shall be effective or enforceable except as specifically provided herein; the Parties shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective litigation positions in the Action on February 3, 2022; and, except as specifically provided herein, the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Stipulation and any related order had not been entered. In such event, this Stipulation, and any aspect of the discussions or negotiations leading to this Stipulation shall not be admissible in this Action and shall not be used against or to the prejudice of Defendants or against or to the prejudice of Plaintiffs, in any court filing, deposition, at trial, or otherwise.

46. In the event the Settlement is terminated or fails to become effective for any reason, any portion of the Settlement Amount previously paid and any attorneys' fees and expenses that have been advanced or paid to Plaintiffs' Counsel in accordance with ¶¶12-14, together with any earnings thereon, less any Taxes paid or due, less Notice and Administration Expenses actually incurred and paid or payable from the Settlement Amount, shall be returned to those who funded the Settlement Amount within thirty (30) calendar days after written notification of such event in accordance with instructions provided by Defendants' Counsel to Lead Counsel. At the request of Defendants' Counsel, the Escrow Agent or its designees shall apply for any tax refund owed on the amounts in the Escrow Account and pay the proceeds, after any deduction of any fees or expenses incurred in connection with such application(s), of such refund to the Person(s) that made the deposits or as otherwise directed.

**NO ADMISSION**

47. Except as set forth in ¶48 below, this Stipulation, whether or not consummated, and whether or not approved by the Court, and any discussion, negotiation, proceeding, or agreement relating to the Stipulation, the Settlement, the Supplemental Agreement, and any matter arising in connection with settlement discussions or negotiations, proceedings, or agreements, shall not be

offered or received against or to the prejudice of any of the Parties or their respective counsel, for any purpose other than in an action to enforce the terms hereof, and in particular:

(a) do not constitute, and shall not be offered or received against or to the prejudice of any of the Defendants or the Released Defendant Parties as evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Defendants or the Released Defendant Parties with respect to the truth of any allegation by Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class, or the validity of any claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Action or in any litigation, including but not limited to the Released Claims, or of any liability, damages, negligence, fault or wrongdoing of Defendants or any person or entity whatsoever, or of any infirmity in any of the Defendants' defenses;

(b) do not constitute, and shall not be offered or received against or to the prejudice of any of the Defendants or the Released Defendant Parties as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission of any fault, misrepresentation, or omission with respect to any statement or written document approved or made by any of the Defendants, or against or to the prejudice of Plaintiffs, or any other member of the Settlement Class, as evidence of any infirmity in the claims of Plaintiffs, or the other members of the Settlement Class;

(c) do not constitute, and shall not be offered or received against or to the prejudice of any of the Defendants or the Released Defendant Parties, Plaintiffs, any other member of the Settlement Class, or their respective counsel, as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission with respect to any liability, damages, negligence, fault, infirmity, or wrongdoing, or in any way referred to for any other reason against or to the prejudice of any of the Defendants or the Released Defendant Parties, Plaintiffs, other members of the Settlement Class, or their respective

counsel, in any other civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Stipulation;

(d) do not constitute, and shall not be construed against any of the Defendants or the Released Defendant Parties, Plaintiffs, or any other member of the Settlement Class, as an admission or concession that the consideration to be given hereunder represents the amount that could be or would have been recovered after trial; and

(e) do not constitute and shall not be construed as or received in evidence as an admission, concession, or presumption against Plaintiffs, or any other member of the Settlement Class, that any of their claims are without merit or infirm or that damages recoverable under the Complaint would not have exceeded the Settlement Amount.

48. Notwithstanding ¶47 above, the Parties, and their respective counsel, may file this Stipulation and/or the Judgment or Alternative Judgment in any action that may be brought against them in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, statute of limitations, statute of repose, good-faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim, or to effectuate any liability protection granted them under any applicable insurance policy. The Parties may file this Stipulation and/or the Judgment or Alternative Judgment in any action that may be brought to enforce the terms of this Stipulation and/or the Judgment or Alternative Judgment. All Parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of implementing and enforcing the Settlement.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

49. The Supplemental Agreement and all of the exhibits to the Stipulation, except any Plan of Allocation to the extent incorporated in those exhibits, are material and integral parts of this Stipulation and are fully incorporated herein by this reference.

50. The Parties intend the Settlement to be the full, final, and complete resolution of all claims asserted or that could have been asserted by the Parties with respect to the Released Claims and Released Defendants' Claims. Accordingly, the Parties agree not to make any application for sanctions, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 or other court rule or statute, with respect to any claim or defense in this Action. The Judgment or Alternative Judgment, as the case may be, shall contain a finding that the Parties and their counsel at all times complied with the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 11. The Parties agree that the amount paid and the other terms of the Settlement, with the help of a mediator, were negotiated at arm's-length and in good faith by the Parties and their respective counsel and reflect a settlement that was reached voluntarily based upon adequate information and after consultation with experienced legal counsel.

51. This Stipulation, along with its exhibits and the Supplemental Agreement, may not be modified or amended, nor may any of its provisions be waived, except by a writing signed by counsel for the Parties hereto, or their successors.

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

53. The administration and consummation of the Settlement as embodied in this Stipulation shall be under the authority of the Court, and the Court shall retain jurisdiction for the purpose of entering orders providing for awards of attorneys' fees and any expenses and implementing and enforcing the terms of this Stipulation.

54. The waiver by one Party of any breach of this Stipulation by any other Party shall not be deemed a waiver by any other Party, or a waiver by any Party of any other prior or subsequent breach of this Stipulation.

55. This Stipulation, its exhibits, and the Supplemental Agreement constitute the entire agreement among the Parties concerning the Settlement as against the Defendants, and no representation, warranty, or inducement has been made by any Party concerning this Stipulation and its exhibits other than those contained and memorialized in such documents.

56. Nothing in the Stipulation, or the negotiations relating thereto, is intended to or shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege or immunity, including, without limitation, attorney-client privilege, joint defense privilege, or work product protection.

57. Without further order of the Court, the Parties may agree to reasonable extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of this Stipulation.

58. All designations, agreements made, and orders entered during the course of the Action relating to the confidentiality of documents or information shall survive this Stipulation.

59. This Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. Signatures sent by facsimile or via email in pdf format shall be deemed originals.

60. This Stipulation shall be binding when signed, but the Settlement shall be effective upon the entry of the Judgment or Alternative Judgment and the payment in full of the Settlement Amount, subject only to the condition that the Effective Date will have occurred.

61. This Stipulation shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties, including the Released Parties and any corporation, partnership, or other entity into or with which any Party hereto may merge, consolidate, or reorganize.

62. The construction, interpretation, operation, effect, and validity of this Stipulation, and all documents necessary to effectuate it, shall be governed by the laws of the State of New

York without regard to conflicts of laws, except to the extent that federal law requires that federal law govern.

63. This Stipulation shall not be construed more strictly against one Party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it, or any part of it, may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that it is the result of arm's-length negotiations among the Parties, and all Parties have contributed substantially and materially to the preparation of this Stipulation.

64. All counsel and any other person executing this Stipulation and any of the exhibits hereto, or any related Settlement document, warrant and represent that they have the full authority to do so, and that they have the authority to take appropriate action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to the Stipulation to effectuate its terms.

65. The Parties and their respective counsel agree to cooperate fully with one another in seeking Court approval of the Preliminary Approval Order and the Settlement, as embodied in this Stipulation, and to use best efforts to promptly agree promptly upon and execute all such other documentation as reasonably may be required to obtain Final approval by the Court of the Settlement.

66. If any Party is required to give notice to another Party under this Stipulation, such notice shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given upon receipt of hand delivery or facsimile or email transmission, with confirmation of receipt. Notice shall be provided as follows:

If to Plaintiffs:

Labaton Sucharow LLP  
Attn: Christine M. Fox, Esq.  
140 Broadway  
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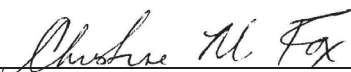
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67. Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall bear its own costs.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have caused this Stipulation to be executed, by their duly authorized attorneys, as of March 15, 2022.

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