

EXHIBIT 1

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

NORMA VALENZUELA, individually and as a representative of a class of similarly situated persons, on behalf of the ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

ADVANTAGE SALES & MARKETING LLC,
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ADVANTAGE SALES & MARKETING LLC,
THE ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, and DOES
No. 1–20, Whose Names Are Currently
Unknown,

Defendants.

Case No. 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Class Action Settlement Agreement (the “Settlement Agreement”) is entered into as of September 2, 2025, by and between Plaintiff Norma Valenzuela, individually and on behalf of the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan (the “Plan”), and Defendants Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC and the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee, in consideration of the promises, covenants, and agreements herein described, and for other good and valuable consideration acknowledged by each of them to be satisfactory and adequate.

The capitalized terms used in this Settlement Agreement are defined in Article I, below.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2024, Plaintiff filed this lawsuit against Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC, the Board of Directors of Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC, and the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, asserting certain claims for breach of fiduciary duty and other alleged violations under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), 29 U.S.C. § 1001 *et. seq.*, on behalf of the Plan and a proposed class of similarly-situated participants and beneficiaries of the Plan (the “Action”);

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2024, Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC, the Board of Directors of Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC, and the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee moved to dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint;

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024, the Court entered an order denying in part the motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims of fiduciary breach with regard to the monitoring of the Plan's recordkeeping and administrative fees and the Franklin Growth Fund Class R6, and granting in part the motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claim for prospective relief;

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2025, the Court entered an order approving the Notice of Lodging filed regarding the joint stipulation to dismiss the Board of Directors of Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC as a defendant in this Action (ECF Nos. 45, 46);

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2025, Plaintiff and Defendants engaged in a mediation and reached an agreement in principle to resolve the Recordkeeping Claim (as defined below), and they have not reached an agreement to resolve the Investment Claim (as defined below);

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties engaged in sufficient fact discovery, including exchanging initial disclosures and documents, to evaluate the merits of the claims and defenses and alleged losses to the Plan associated with the Recordkeeping Claim;

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties reached agreement to settle the Recordkeeping Claim as described fully herein and preserve the Settling Parties' rights and positions with respect to the continued litigation of the Investment Claim;

WHEREAS, the Settlement was negotiated by sophisticated counsel in an arm's-length process in which the Settling Parties candidly exchanged positions and supporting information concerning the claims and defenses in the Action and alleged losses to the Plan;

WHEREAS, Defendants deny any wrongdoing and any liability arising from the factual allegations and Claims set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint and maintain that Defendants are without any fault or liability;

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties have decided to enter into this Settlement Agreement because it provides substantial and meaningful benefits to the members of the Settlement Class (as defined below) and the Plan, and to avoid the substantial costs, uncertainties, and risks of continued litigation with respect to the Recordkeeping Claim;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed by, between, and among the undersigned, in consideration of the promises, covenants, and agreements herein described, acknowledged by each of them to be satisfactory and adequate, that the Recordkeeping Claim shall be settled and dismissed with prejudice on the terms and conditions set forth herein, subject to judicial approval.

1. ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITIONS

As used in this Settlement Agreement and the Exhibits hereto, unless otherwise defined, the following terms have the meanings specified below:

1.1. "Active Account" means an individual investment account in the Plan with a balance greater than \$0 as of the date the Preliminary Approval Order is entered by the Court.

1.2. "Administrative Expenses" means expenses incurred in the administration of this Settlement Agreement, including (a) all fees, expenses, and costs associated with providing the Settlement Notice to the Class Members, excluding any fees and expenses of the Plan's

Recordkeeper in connection with the same; (b) related tax expenses (including taxes and tax expenses as described in Section 4.3); (c) all expenses and costs associated with the distribution of funds under the Plan of Allocation, excluding any fees and expenses of the Plan's Recordkeeper in connection with the same; (d) all fees and expenses of the Settlement Administrator and Escrow Agent; (e) all fees and expenses of the Independent Fiduciary, not to exceed \$15,000; and (f) all fees, expenses, and costs associated with providing CAFA Notices. Excluded from Administrative Expenses are Defendants' internal expenses and the Settling Parties' respective legal fees and expenses, except as otherwise set forth herein. Administrative Expenses shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, subject to Court approval.

1.3. "Alternate Payee" means a Person other than a Current Participant or Beneficiary in the Plan who is entitled to a benefit under the Plan as a result of a QDRO.

1.4. "Attorneys' Fees and Costs" means the amount awarded by the Court as compensation for the services provided by Class Counsel. The amount of attorneys' fees for Class Counsel shall not exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount (a maximum amount of \$41,666.67), which shall be recovered from the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel will not separately seek reimbursement for any litigation costs and expenses advanced and carried by Class Counsel in connection with the Recordkeeping Claim.

1.5. "Authorized Administrator" means any entity, other than the Recordkeeper, with appropriate administrative authority under the Plan.

1.6. "Beneficiary" means any individual, trust, estate, or other recipient entitled to receive death benefits payable under the Plan, on either a primary or contingent basis, other than an Alternate Payee.

1.7. "CAFA" means the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1711-1715.

1.8. "CAFA Notice" means notice of this proposed Settlement to the appropriate federal and state officials pursuant to CAFA, to be issued by the Settlement Administrator on behalf of Defendants, substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit E hereto.

1.9. "Case Contribution Award" means the monetary amount awarded by the Court to the Class Representative in recognition of the Class Representative's assistance in the prosecution of this Class Action, for which Class Counsel may seek an amount not exceeding \$5,000.00 payable from the Gross Settlement Amount. Any such Case Contribution Award shall be subject to the approval of the Court.

1.10. "Class Action" means *Valenzuela v. Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC*, Case No. 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES (C.D. Cal.).

1.11. "Class Counsel" means Miller Shah LLP.

1.12. "Class Members" means all individuals in the Settlement Class, including the Class Representative.

1.13. “Class Period” means the period from March 4, 2018 through the date the Preliminary Approval Order is entered by the Court.

1.14. “Class Representative” means Norma Valenzuela.

1.15. “Committee” means the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee and any successor fiduciary committees.

1.16. “Complaint” means the Class Action Complaint filed on March 4, 2024, or any amendment thereto.

1.17. “Court” means the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

1.18. “Current Participant” means a member of the Settlement Class who had an Active Account as of the date the Preliminary Approval Order is entered by the Court.

1.19. “Defendants” mean Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC and the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee.

1.20. “Defense Counsel” means Mayer Brown LLP.

1.21. “Escrow Agent” means the entity approved by the Settling Parties to act as escrow agent for any portion of the Gross Settlement Amount deposited in or accruing in the Qualified Settlement Fund pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

1.22. “ERISA” means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 1001 *et seq.*

1.23. “Fairness Hearing” means the hearing scheduled by the Court to consider: (a) any objections by Class Members to the Settlement; (b) Class Counsel’s petition for Attorneys’ Fees and Costs and Class Representative’s Case Contribution Award; and (c) whether to finally approve the Settlement under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e). The Fairness Hearing may be conducted telephonically or by videoconference.

1.24. “Final” means, with respect to any judicial ruling, order, or judgment, that the period for any motions for reconsideration, motions for rehearing, appeals, petitions for *certiorari*, or the like (“Review Proceeding”) has expired without the initiation of a Review Proceeding, or, if a Review Proceeding has been timely initiated, that it has been fully and finally resolved, either by court action or by voluntary action of any party, without any possibility of a reversal, vacatur, or modification of any judicial ruling, order, or judgment, including the exhaustion of all proceedings in any remand or subsequent appeal and remand. The Settling Parties agree that absent an appeal or other attempted Review Proceeding, the Final Approval Order becomes Final thirty (30) calendar days after its entry by the Court.

1.25. “Final Approval Order” means the entry of the order and final judgment approving the Settlement Agreement, implementing the terms of this Settlement Agreement, and dismissing

the Recordkeeping Claim with prejudice, to be proposed by the Settling Parties for approval by the Court, in substantially the form attached as Exhibit D hereto.

1.26. “Former Participant” means a member of the Settlement Class who does not have an Active Account.

1.27. “Former Participant Claim Form” shall mean the form to be provided to Former Participants and returned to the Settlement Administrator by Former Participants and Beneficiaries, substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A-1 hereto.

1.28. “Gross Settlement Amount” means the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00), contributed to the Qualified Settlement Fund in accordance with Article 5. The Gross Settlement Amount shall be paid by Defendants and/or their fiduciary liability insurer. The Gross Settlement Amount shall be the full and sole monetary payment to the Settlement Class, Plaintiff, and Class Counsel made by or on behalf of Defendants in connection with the Settlement effectuated through this Settlement Agreement. Neither Defendants nor their insurer will make any additional payment in connection with the Settlement of the Class Action.

1.29. “Independent Fiduciary” means a qualified third-party to be appointed by Defendants on behalf of the Plan, which has no relationship to any of the Settling Parties and will serve as an independent fiduciary to the Plan to approve and authorize the settlement of Released Claims on behalf of the Plan in accordance with Section 2.1.

1.30. “Investment Claim” means Plaintiff’s claim that Defendants allegedly failed to appropriately monitor the Plan’s investments and retained imprudent investments, specifically the Franklin Growth Fund Class R6, in the Plan, as well as any associated derivative claims.

1.31. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount minus: (a) all Attorneys’ Fees and Costs as authorized by the Court; (b) any Case Contribution Award as authorized by the Court; (c) all Administrative Expenses as authorized by the Court; and (d) a contingency reserve not to exceed an amount to be mutually agreed upon by the Settling Parties that is set aside by the Settlement Administrator for: (1) Administrative Expenses incurred before the Settlement Effective Date but not yet paid; (2) Administrative Expenses estimated to be incurred after the Settlement Effective Date; and (3) an amount estimated for adjustments of data or calculation errors.

1.32. “Person” means an individual, partnership, corporation, governmental entity or any other form of entity or organization.

1.33. “Plaintiff” means the Class Representative and each member of the Settlement Class.

1.34. “Plan” means the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan, and each of its predecessor plans or successor plans, individually and collectively, and any trust created under such plans.

1.35. “Plan of Allocation” means the method of allocating settlement funds to Class Members. A proposed form of the Plan of Allocation is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

1.36. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the order of the Court in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit C, whereby the Court preliminarily approves this Settlement.

1.37. “QDRO” means a Qualified Domestic Relations Order within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. § 414(p).

1.38. “Qualified Settlement Fund” means the interest-bearing settlement fund account to be established and maintained by the Escrow Agent in accordance with Article 5 herein and referred to as the Qualified Settlement Fund (within the meaning of Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1).

1.39. “Recordkeeper” means the entity that maintains electronic records of the Plan’s participants and their individual accounts.

1.40. “Recordkeeping Claim” means Plaintiff’s claim that Defendants allegedly caused the Plan to pay excessive fees for recordkeeping and administrative services, as well as any associated derivative claims.

1.41. “Released Claims” means any and all past, present, and future actual or potential claims (including claims for any and all losses, damages, unjust enrichment, attorneys’ fees, disgorgement, surcharge, interest, litigation costs, injunction, declaration, contribution, reformation, accounting, indemnification, or any other type or nature of legal or equitable relief), actions, suits, demands, rights, obligations, liabilities, expenses, costs, and causes of action, accrued or not, whether arising under federal, state, or local law, whether by statute, regulation, contract, or equity, whether brought directly or indirectly, in an individual or representative capacity, whether accrued or not, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, foreseen or unforeseen, actual or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, based in whole or in part on acts or failures to act during the Class Period:

1.41.1. That arise out of, relate to, or are based on or have any connection with: (a) the selection, engagement, retention, monitoring, oversight, review, compensation, fees, costs, or performance of the Plan’s recordkeeping and administrative service providers, and any of the allegations, acts, omissions, facts, matters, transactions, or occurrences that were or could have been alleged, asserted, or set forth in the Complaint related to the same; (b) the selection, nomination, appointment, retention, monitoring, or removal of the Plan’s fiduciaries with respect to the Plan’s recordkeeping and administrative service providers; (c) disclosures or failures to disclose information regarding the Plan’s recordkeeping and administrative service arrangements; (d) the fees, costs, or expenses associated with recordkeeping and administrative services, including any fees paid through the use of revenue sharing, that are or were charged to, paid by, or reimbursed by the Plan or any Class Member; (e) Plan sponsor or Plan fiduciary decisions to pay or not pay fees for the Plan’s recordkeeping and administrative services; and (f) alleged breach of the duty of loyalty, care, prudence, or any other fiduciary duties or prohibited transactions under ERISA with respect to the foregoing.

1.41.2. That would be barred by the principles of *res judicata* or collateral estoppel had the Recordkeeping Claim asserted been fully litigated and resulted in a Final Judgment, or based on entry of the Final Approval Order; or

1.41.3. That relate to the direction to calculate, the calculation of, the investments of money within (pursuant to Section 4.5), and/or the timing, method or manner of allocation of the Qualified Settlement Fund to the Plan or any Class Member in accordance with the Plan of Allocation; or

1.41.4. That relate to any tax liability, including penalties and interest, related in any way to payments under the Settlement Agreement; or

1.41.5. That relate to the approval by the Independent Fiduciary of the Settlement, unless brought against the Independent Fiduciary alone.

1.41.6. The Class Representative, Class Members and the Plan expressly waive and relinquish, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that a “general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor,” and any similar state, federal or other law, rule or regulation or principle of common law of any domestic governmental entity.

1.41.7. “Released Claims” does not include any claims the arise out of, relate to, or are based on or have any connection with: (a) the selection, oversight, retention, monitoring, compensation, fees, or performance of the Plan’s investment options; (b) disclosures or failures to disclose information regarding the Plan’s investment options; or (c) alleged breach of the duty of loyalty, care, prudence, diversification, or any other fiduciary duties or prohibited transactions under ERISA with respect to the Plan’s investment options.

1.41.8. “Released Claims” is intended to include the Recordkeeping Claim, while preserving Plaintiff’s right to continue litigating the Investment Claim.

1.41.9. “Released Claims” does not include any claims that the Class Representative or the Settlement Class have to the value of their respective vested account balances under the terms of the Plan and according to the Plan’s records as of the date the Settlement becomes Final that the Class Representative or any Class Member has or may have arising solely under ERISA § 502(a)(1)(B), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(1)(B), to the extent such claims do not relate to the Released Claims in Section 1.41.1.

1.42. “Released Parties” means (a) Defendants; (b) Defendants’ insurers, co-insurers, and reinsurers; (c) Defendants’ direct and indirect past, present, and future affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, divisions, joint ventures, predecessors, successors, Successors-In-Interest, assigns, boards of trustees, boards of directors, officers, trustees, directors, partners, agents, managers, members, employees or heirs (including any individuals who serve or served in any of the foregoing capacities, such as members of the boards of trustees or boards of directors that are associated with any of Defendants’ past, present, and future affiliates), and each Person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with them; (d) the Plan and the Plan’s current and past fiduciaries, committees, subcommittees, administrators, plan administrators, recordkeepers, service providers, consultants, attorneys, agents, insurers, and parties-in-interest;

and (e) Defendants' independent contractors, representatives, attorneys, administrators, insurers, fiduciaries, accountants, auditors, advisors, consultants, personal representatives, spouses, heirs, executors, administrators, associates, employee benefit plan fiduciaries (with the exception of the Independent Fiduciary), employee benefit plan administrators, employee benefit plan committees and subcommittees, service providers to the Plan (including their owners and employees), members of their immediate families, consultants, subcontractors, and all persons acting under, by, through, or in concert with any of them.

1.43. "Representatives" shall mean representatives, attorneys, agents, directors, officers, or employees.

1.44. "Review Proceeding" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 1.24.

1.45. "Settlement" means the settlement to be consummated under this Settlement Agreement and its exhibits, including any modifications or amendments adopted pursuant to Section 15.13.

1.46. "Settlement Administrator" means Strategic Claims Services, the entity selected and retained by Class Counsel to administer the Settlement and Plan of Allocation.

1.47. "Settlement Agreement" means this agreement embodying the terms of the Settlement, including any modifications or amendments hereto.

1.48. "Settlement Agreement Execution Date" means the date on which the final signature is applied to this Settlement Agreement.

1.49. "Settlement Class" means, for purposes of resolving the Recordkeeping Claim only, all persons who participated in the Plan at any time during the Class Period, including any Beneficiary of a deceased Person who participated in the Plan at any time during the Class Period, and any Alternate Payee of a Person subject to a QDRO who participated in the Plan at any time during the Class Period. Excluded from the Settlement Class are Defendants, including the individual members of the Committee and their beneficiaries.

1.50. "Settlement Effective Date" means the date on which the Final Approval Order is Final, provided that by such date the Settlement has not been terminated in accordance with Article 12.

1.51. "Settlement Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement and Fairness Hearing to be sent to Class Members identified by the Settlement Administrator following the Court's issuance of the Preliminary Approval Order, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Settlement Notice shall inform Class Members of a Fairness Hearing to be held with the Court, on a date to be determined by the Court, at which any Class Member satisfying the conditions set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order and the Settlement Notice may be heard regarding: (a) the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (b) the petition of Class Counsel for award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs; (c) payment of and reserve for Administrative Expenses; and (d) Class Representative's Case Contribution Awards.

1.52. “Settlement Website” means the internet website established in accordance with Section 13.2.

1.53. “Settling Parties” means the Defendants and the Class Representative, on behalf of themselves, the Plan, and each of the Class Members.

1.54. “Successor-In-Interest” shall mean a Person or party’s estate, legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns, including successors or assigns that result from corporate mergers or other structural changes.

1.55. “Transferor” means Defendants or their insurer or representative, as that term is defined within the meaning of Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1(d)(1).

1.56. “Unknown Claim” means any claim that any Party does not know or suspect to exist in his, her or its favor at any time on or before the date that such Party’s release becomes effective, and that, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her or its decision to settle or might have affected his, her, or its decision not to request exclusion from the Settlement Class or not to object to the Settlement Agreement, as the case may be.

2. ARTICLE 2 – REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY INDEPENDENT FIDUCIARY, PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT APPROVAL, AND NOTICE TO THE CLASS

2.1. Independent Fiduciary. The Independent Fiduciary, retained by Defendants on behalf of the Plan, shall have the following responsibilities, including determining whether to approve and authorize the settlement of Released Claims on behalf of the Plan.

2.1.1. The Independent Fiduciary shall comply with all relevant conditions set forth in Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 2003-39, “Release of Claims and Extensions of Credit in Connection with Litigation,” issued December 31, 2003, by the United States Department of Labor, 68 Fed. Reg. 75,632, as amended (“PTE 2003-39”), in making its determination.

2.1.2. The Independent Fiduciary shall notify Defendants directly of its determination, in writing (with copies to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel), which notification shall be delivered no later than forty-five (45) calendar days before the Fairness Hearing.

2.1.3. All fees and expenses associated with the Independent Fiduciary’s determination and performance of its other obligations in connection with the Settlement, up to \$15,000, will constitute Administrative Expenses to be deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount.

2.1.4. Defendants, Defense Counsel, and Class Counsel shall respond to reasonable requests by the Independent Fiduciary for information so that the Independent Fiduciary can review and evaluate the Settlement Agreement.

2.1.5. If Defendants conclude that the Independent Fiduciary's determination does not comply with PTE 2003-39 or is otherwise deficient, Defendants shall inform the Independent Fiduciary within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the determination.

2.1.6. A copy of the Independent Fiduciary determination letter and report shall be provided to Class Counsel, who may file it with the Court in support of Final approval of the Settlement.

2.2. Preliminary Approval and Class Certification. As soon as reasonably possible upon the full execution of this Settlement Agreement by the Settling Parties, or no later than thirty (30) calendar days following the full execution of this Settlement Agreement by the Settling Parties, Plaintiff, through Class Counsel, shall file with the Court motions seeking preliminary approval of this Settlement Agreement and for entry of the Preliminary Approval Order in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit C, as well as for certification of the Settlement Class, with Plaintiff's counsel, Miller Shah LLP, as Class Counsel as defined in Section 1.11 of this Settlement Agreement, and with a Settlement Class as defined in Section 1.49 of this Settlement Agreement for purposes of settling the Recordkeeping Claim only. Defendants will have the opportunity to review and provide input on the memorandum in support of the motion of preliminary approval prepared by Class Counsel and submitted to the Court. Defendants will not oppose the motion for preliminary approval of the settlement and for entry of the Preliminary Approval Order provided that it is consistent with the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement. Defendants will not object to the motion for class certification pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(1) for purposes of settling the Recordkeeping Claim only. If the Court does not issue the Final Approval Order, then no Class shall be deemed to have been certified by, or as a result of, this Settlement Agreement, Defendants shall not be deemed to have admitted the propriety of certification of the Class under any provision of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and the Action shall for all purposes revert to its status on June 22, 2025. Because the Class is being certified under Rule 23(b)(1), Class Members shall not be permitted to exclude themselves from the Class.

The Preliminary Approval Order to be presented to the Court shall, among other things:

2.2.1. Grant the motion to certify the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1);

2.2.2. Approve the text of the Settlement Notice for mailing or sending by electronic means to Class Members;

2.2.3. Determine that under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2), the Settlement Notices constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, provide due and sufficient notice of the Fairness Hearing and of the rights of all Class Members, and comply fully with the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, the Constitution of the United States, and any other applicable law;

2.2.4. Cause the Settlement Administrator to send by first-class mail and/or e-mail the Settlement Notice and Former Participant Claim Form to each Class Member identified by the Settlement Administrator based upon the data provided by the Plan's Recordkeeper;

2.2.5. Provide that the Former Participant Claim Form must be returned to the Settlement Administrator within one hundred and twenty (120) days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, by any Former Participants, Beneficiaries, or Alternate Payees who do not have Active Accounts, who wish to receive the benefits of this Settlement;

2.2.6. Provide that, pending final determination of whether the Settlement Agreement should be approved, no Class Member may directly, through Representatives, or in any other capacity, commence any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal asserting any of the Released Claims against Defendants, the Released Parties, and/or the Plan;

2.2.7. Set the Fairness Hearing for no sooner than one hundred and forty (140) days after the date the motion for entry of the Preliminary Approval Order is filed, in order to determine whether: (a) the Court should approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate; (b) the Court should enter the Final Approval Order; and (c) the Court should approve the application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Class Representative's Case Contribution Award, Administrative Expenses incurred to date, and a reserve for anticipated future Administrative Expenses;

2.2.8. Provide that any objections to any aspect of the Settlement Agreement shall be heard, and any papers submitted in support of said objections shall be considered, by the Court at the Fairness Hearing if they have been filed validly with the Clerk of the Court and copies provided to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel. To be filed validly, the objection and any notice of intent to participate or supporting documents must be filed or postmarked at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the scheduled Fairness Hearing. Any Person wishing to speak at the Fairness Hearing shall file and serve a notice of intent to participate fifteen (15) calendar days before the Fairness Hearing;

2.2.9. Provide that the Settling Parties may, but are not required to, serve discovery requests, including requests for documents and notice of deposition not to exceed two (2) hours in length, on any objector within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the objection and that any responses to discovery or depositions must be completed within ten (10) calendar days of the discovery request being served on the objector;

2.2.10. Provide that any party may file a response to an objection by a Class Member at least seven (7) calendar days before the Fairness Hearing;

2.2.11. Provide that the Fairness Hearing may, without further direct notice to the Class Members, other than by notice to Class Counsel, be adjourned or continued by order of the Court; and

2.2.12. Approve the form of the CAFA Notice attached as Exhibit E and order that upon mailing of the CAFA Notices, Defendants shall have fulfilled their obligations under CAFA.

2.3. Settlement Administrator. Defendants and Defense Counsel shall use reasonable efforts to respond timely to written requests, including by e-mail, from the Settlement Administrator for readily accessible data that is reasonably necessary to determine the feasibility of administering the Plan of Allocation or to implement the Plan of Allocation.

2.3.1. The Settlement Administrator must agree to be bound by the Protective Order entered by the Court on February 27, 2025 (ECF No. 48) and any further non-disclosure or security protocol required by the Settling Parties.

2.3.2. The Settlement Administrator shall use the data and other information provided by Defendants and the Plan's Recordkeeper solely for the purpose of meeting its obligations as Settlement Administrator, and for no other purpose.

2.3.3. At the request of the Settling Parties, the Settlement Administrator shall provide a written protocol addressing how the Settlement Administrator will maintain and store information provided to it in order to ensure that reasonable and necessary precautions are taken to safeguard the privacy and security of such information. The Settling Parties shall have the right to approve that written protocol.

2.4. Settlement Notice. By the date and in the manner set by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order, and unless otherwise set forth below, the Settlement Administrator shall cause to be sent to each Class Member identified by the Settlement Administrator a Settlement Notice in the form and manner to be approved by the Court, which shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A or a form subsequently agreed to by the Settling Parties and approved by the Court. The Settlement Administrator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to locate any Class Member whose Settlement Notice is returned and re-send such documents one additional time.

2.5. CAFA Notice. No later than ten (10) calendar days after the filing of the motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, Defendants will provide data or other information if necessary to the Class Counsel, and the Class Counsel will cause the Settlement Administrator to serve the CAFA Notice in substantially the form attached as Exhibit E hereto on the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Labor, and the attorneys general of all states in which Class Members reside, as specified by 28 U.S.C. § 1715.

3. ARTICLE 3 – FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL

3.1. No later than forty-five (45) calendar days before the Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel shall submit to the Court a motion for entry of the Final Approval Order (Exhibit D) in the form approved by Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, which shall request approval by the Court of the terms of this Settlement Agreement and entry of the Final Approval Order in accordance with this Settlement Agreement. The Final Approval Order as proposed by the Settling Parties shall provide for the following, among other things, as is necessary to carry out the Settlement consistent with applicable law and governing Plan documents:

3.1.1. Approval of the Settlement of the Released Claims covered by this Settlement Agreement adjudging the terms of the Settlement Agreement to be fair,

reasonable, and adequate to the Plan and the Class Members and directing the Settling Parties to take the necessary steps to effectuate the terms of the Settlement Agreement;

3.1.2. A determination under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2) that the Settlement Notice constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances and that due and sufficient notice of the Fairness Hearing and the rights of all Class Members has been provided;

3.1.3. Dismissal with prejudice of all Released Claims, including but not limited to the Recordkeeping Claim, whether asserted by the Class Representative on her own behalf or on behalf of the Class Members, or on behalf of the Plan, without costs to any of the Settling Parties other than as provided for in this Settlement Agreement;

3.1.4. That the Plan and each Class Member (and their respective heirs, beneficiaries, executors, administrators, fiduciaries, estates, past and present partners, officers, directors, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns) shall be: (a) conclusively deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Approval Order shall have, fully, finally, and forever settled, released, relinquished, waived, and discharged the Released Parties from all Released Claims; and (b) barred and enjoined from suing the Released Parties in any action or proceeding alleging any of the Released Claims, even if any Class Member may thereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those which the Class Members or Class Counsel now know or believe to be true with respect to the Released Claims, whether or not such Class Members have filed an objection to the Settlement or to any application by Class Counsel for an award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and whether or not the objections or claims for distribution of such Class Members have been approved or allowed;

3.1.5. That each Class Member shall release the Released Parties, Defense Counsel, and Class Counsel for any claims, liabilities, and attorneys' fees and expenses arising from the allocation of the Gross Settlement Amount or Net Settlement Amount and for all tax liability and associated penalties and interest as well as related attorneys' fees and expenses;

3.1.6. That the provisions of Sections 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 shall apply even if any Class Member may thereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those which the Class Members or Class Counsel now know or believe to be true with respect to the Class Action and the Released Claims, whether or not such Class Members receive a monetary benefit from the Settlement, whether or not such Class Members actually received the Settlement Notice, whether or not such Class Members have filed an objection to the Settlement or to any application by Class Counsel for an award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and whether or not the objections or claims for distribution of such Class Members have been approved or allowed;

3.1.7. That all applicable CAFA requirements have been satisfied;

3.1.8. That the Settlement Administrator shall have final authority to determine the share of the Net Settlement Amount to be allocated to each Class Member in accordance with the Plan of Allocation approved by the Court;

3.1.9. That, with respect to any matters that arise concerning the implementation of distributions to Class Members who are current participants in the Plan (after allocation decisions have been made by the Settlement Administrator in its sole discretion), all questions not resolved by the Settlement Agreement shall be resolved by the Authorized Administrator or other fiduciaries of the Plan, in accordance with applicable law and the governing terms of the Plan; and

3.1.10. That within twenty (20) business days following the issuance of all settlement payments to Class Members as provided by the Plan of Allocation approved by the Court, the Settlement Administrator shall prepare and provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel a list of each Person who received a settlement payment or contribution from the Qualified Settlement Fund and the amount of such payment or contribution.

3.2. The Final Approval Order and judgment entered by the Court approving the Settlement Agreement shall provide that upon its entry, all Settling Parties, the Settlement Class and the Plan shall be bound by the Settlement Agreement and the Final Approval Order.

4. ARTICLE 4 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND

4.1. No later than ten (10) calendar days after the Preliminary Approval Order is issued, the Settlement Administrator shall establish the Qualified Settlement Fund with the Escrow Agent. The Settling Parties agree that the Qualified Settlement Fund is intended to be, and will be, an interest-bearing “qualified settlement fund” within the meaning of Section 468B of the Code and Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1. In addition, the Settlement Administrator shall timely make such elections as necessary or advisable to carry out the provisions of this Section 4.1. If applicable, the Settlement Administrator (as the “administrator” pursuant to Section 4.2) and the Transferor shall fully cooperate in filing the “relation-back election” (as defined in Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1(j)(2)) to treat the Qualified Settlement Fund as coming into existence as a “qualified settlement fund” within the meaning of Section 468B of the Code and Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1 as of the earliest permitted date. Such elections shall be made in compliance with the procedures and requirements contained in such regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the Settlement Administrator to prepare and deliver, in a timely and proper manner, the necessary documentation for signature by all necessary parties, and thereafter to cause the appropriate filing to be timely made.

4.2. The “administrator” within the meaning of Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-2(k)(3) shall be the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall timely and properly cause to be filed on behalf of the Qualified Settlement Fund all informational and other tax returns required to be filed in accordance with Treas. Reg. §§ 1.468B-2(k) and -2(l) with respect to the Gross Settlement Amount (including, without limitation, applying for a taxpayer identification number for the Qualified Settlement Fund pursuant to Internal Revenue Service Form SS-4 and in accordance with Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-2(k)(4)). Such returns as well as any election described in Section 4.1 shall be consistent with this Article 4 and, in all events, shall reflect that all taxes (including any estimated taxes, interest, or penalties) on the income earned by the Qualified Settlement Fund shall be deducted and paid from the Gross Settlement Amount as provided in Section 4.3.

4.3. Taxes and tax expenses are Administrative Expenses to be deducted and paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, including but not limited to: (a) all taxes (including any estimated taxes, interest, or penalties) arising with respect to the income earned by the Qualified Settlement Fund, including any taxes or tax detriments that may be imposed upon Defendants with respect to any income earned by the Qualified Settlement Fund for any period during which the Qualified Settlement Fund does not qualify as a “qualified settlement fund” within the meaning of Section 468B of the Code and Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1; and (b) all tax expenses and costs incurred in connection with the operation and implementation of this Article 4 (including, without limitation, expenses of tax attorneys and/or accountants and mailing and distribution costs and expenses relating to filing (or failing to file) the returns described in this Article 4). Such taxes and tax expenses shall be Administrative Expenses and shall be paid timely by the Settlement Administrator out of the Gross Settlement Amount without prior order from the Court. The Settlement Administrator shall ensure compliance with withholding and reporting requirements in accordance with Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-2(l) and shall be obligated (notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary) to withhold from distribution to any Class Member any funds necessary to pay such amounts, including the establishment of adequate reserves for any taxes and tax expenses; neither the Released Parties, Defense Counsel, nor Class Counsel are responsible nor shall they have any liability therefor. The Settling Parties agree to cooperate with the Settlement Administrator, Escrow Agent, each other, and their tax attorneys and accountants to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this Article 4.

4.4. On the later of (a) September 1, 2025, or (b) the date the Qualified Settlement Fund is established and the Settlement Administrator (or Class Counsel) has furnished to Defendants and/or Defense Counsel in writing the Qualified Settlement Fund name, IRS W-9 Form, and all necessary wiring instructions, the Transferor shall cause to be deposited twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) into the Qualified Settlement Fund as the first installment of the Gross Settlement Amount.

4.5. By the later of October 1, 2025, or the date on which the Preliminary Approval Order is entered, the Transferor shall cause to be deposited one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) into the Qualified Settlement Fund representing the remainder of the Gross Settlement Amount.

4.6. The Settlement Administrator shall, at the written direction of Class Counsel, cause the Escrow Agent to invest the Qualified Settlement Fund in short-term United States Agency or Treasury Securities or other instruments backed by the Full Faith and Credit of the United States Government or an agency thereof, or fully insured by the United States Government or an agency thereof, and shall cause the Escrow Agent to reinvest the proceeds of these investments as they mature in similar instruments at their then-current market rates. For the avoidance of doubt, the Released Parties shall bear no liability or fiduciary responsibility for such investments and/or the timing of any Qualified Settlement Fund payments to Class Members.

4.7. The Settlement Administrator shall not disburse the Gross Settlement Amount or any portion thereof from the Qualified Settlement Fund except as provided in this Settlement Agreement, in an order of the Court, or in a subsequent written stipulation between Class Counsel and Defense Counsel. Subject to the orders of the Court, the Settlement Administrator is

authorized to execute such transactions as are consistent with the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

4.8. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for making provision for the payment from the Qualified Settlement Fund of all taxes and tax expenses, if any, owed with respect to the Qualified Settlement Fund, and for all tax reporting, remittance, and/or withholding obligations, if any, for amounts distributed from it. The Released Parties, Defense Counsel, and/or Class Counsel have no responsibility or any liability for any taxes or tax expenses owed by, or any tax reporting or withholding obligations, if any, of the Qualified Settlement Fund.

4.9. No later than February 15 of the year following the calendar year in which Defendants or their insurer make any transfer of the Gross Settlement Amount, or any other amount, to the Qualified Settlement Fund on behalf of the Transferor pursuant to the terms of this Article 4, the Transferor shall timely furnish a statement to the Settlement Administrator that complies with Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-3(e)(2), which may be a combined statement under Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-3(e)(2)(ii), and shall attach a copy of the statement to its federal income tax return filed for the taxable year in which Defendants or their insurer makes a transfer on their behalf to the Qualified Settlement Fund.

5. PAYMENTS FROM THE QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND

5.1. Disbursements from Qualified Settlement Fund prior to Settlement Effective Date. Class Counsel, subject to the approval of Defendants, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, shall direct the Escrow Agent to disburse money from the Qualified Settlement Fund as follows:

5.1.1. Settlement Notice Expenses. After entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, the Escrow Agent shall be directed in writing to disburse from the Qualified Settlement Fund an amount sufficient for the payment of costs of the Settlement Notice. Class Counsel has selected the Settlement Administrator to assist with Class Notice and administration of the Settlement, subject to the agreement of Defendants, which agreement shall not unreasonably be withheld. At the request of Defendants, the Settlement Administrator shall enter into a confidentiality agreement and information security agreement to adequately protect information provided to the Settlement Administrator relating to the Settlement. Any costs, expenses, or fees incurred in connection with the administration of this Settlement shall be paid out of the Qualified Settlement Fund. Neither Defendants nor Defense Counsel are responsible for the Settlement Administrator's work, nor may they be held liable for any act or omission by the Settlement Administrator.

5.1.2. For taxes and expenses of the Qualified Settlement Fund as provided in Section 4.3.

5.1.3. For fees and expenses of the Independent Fiduciary up to a cap of \$15,000. The Escrow Agent shall be directed to disburse money from the Qualified Settlement Fund to pay the reasonable fees and expenses of the Independent Fiduciary (which shall include any attorneys' fees of the Independent Fiduciary, subject to the cap of \$15,000) retained

pursuant to Article 2.1. To the extent Defendants and/or their insurer pay any costs, fees or expenses to the Independent Fiduciary before proceeds from the Qualified Settlement Fund are available for distribution, the Escrow Agent shall be directed to reimburse Defendants and/or their insurer for such amounts from the Qualified Settlement Fund.

5.1.4. For costs and expenses of the Settlement Administrator in implementing the Plan of Allocation and otherwise administering the Settlement.

5.2. Disbursements from the Qualified Settlement Fund following Settlement Effective Date. Class Counsel shall direct the Escrow Agent to disburse money from the Qualified Settlement Fund as follows:

5.2.1. For Attorneys' Fees and Costs, as approved by the Court, no later than fifteen (15) business days following the Settlement Effective Date. The Court's failure to approve in part any application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs sought by Class Counsel shall not prevent this Settlement Agreement from becoming effective, nor shall it be grounds for termination of the Settlement. If this Settlement Agreement does not become effective, or the judgment or the order making the fee and cost award is reversed or modified, or this Settlement Agreement is canceled or terminated for any other reason, and the reversal, modification, cancellation, or termination becomes Final and not subject to review, and if the fee and cost award has been paid to any extent, then Class Counsel shall within thirty (30) calendar days from receiving notice from Defense Counsel or from a court of appropriate jurisdiction, refund to the Qualified Settlement Fund the fees and expenses previously paid to it from the Qualified Settlement Fund plus interest at the same rate earned on the Qualified Settlement Fund in an amount consistent with such reversal or modification.

5.2.2. For the Class Representative's Case Contribution Award, as approved by the Court, no later than fifteen (15) business days following the Settlement Effective Date.

5.2.3. For costs and expenses of the Settlement Administrator in implementing the Plan of Allocation and otherwise administering the Settlement that were not previously paid.

5.2.4. The Net Settlement Amount will be distributed in accordance with the Plan of Allocation. Pending final distribution of the Net Settlement Amount in accordance with the Plan of Allocation, the Escrow Agent will maintain the Qualified Settlement Fund.

5.3. Implementation of the Plan of Allocation. Class Counsel shall propose to the Court a Plan of Allocation, in substantial conformity to the one attached hereto as Exhibit B, which shall provide for the calculation, allocation, and distribution of the Net Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall be exclusively responsible and liable for calculating the amounts payable to the Class Members pursuant to the Plan of Allocation.

5.3.1. The Net Settlement Amount shall not be distributed until the Investment Claim is resolved. As soon as reasonably practicable after resolution of the Investment Claim, Class Counsel shall direct the Escrow Agent to disburse the Net Settlement

Amount as provided by this Settlement Agreement and the Plan of Allocation. In the event of a recovery on the Investment Claim, disbursement of the Net Settlement Amount shall occur in connection with disbursement of the Investment Claim recovery in a manner reasonably designed to minimize the costs of administering and distributing the Net Settlement Amount and additional Investment Claim recovery amount.

5.3.2. The Recordkeeper or Authorized Administrator shall allocate to the Plan accounts of Class Members who are not Former Participants any Net Settlement Amount as calculated by the Settlement Administrator according to the Plan of Allocation, documentation of which Class Counsel shall direct the Settlement Administrator to provide to the Authorized Administrator pursuant to the Plan of Allocation no later than the distribution of the Net Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall promptly notify Class Counsel as to the date(s) and amounts(s) of said allocation(s) made to Class Members who are not Former Participants. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for distributing the Net Settlement Amount allocated to the Former Participants as provided by the Plan of Allocation, as well as complying with all tax laws, rules, and regulations and withholding obligations with respect to Former Participants. Defendants shall have no liability related to the structure or taxability of such payments. Nothing herein shall constitute approval or disapproval of the Plan of Allocation by Defendants, and Defendants shall have no responsibility or liability for the Plan of Allocation and shall take no position for or against the Plan of Allocation.

5.4. The Net Settlement Amount distributed pursuant to the Plan of Allocation shall constitute “restorative payments” within the meaning of Revenue Ruling 2002-45 for all purposes.

5.5. Final List of Class Members. Prior to the disbursement of the Net Settlement Amount to the Plan, the Settlement Administrator shall provide to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel a final list of Class Members, in electronic format, to whom the Net Settlement Amount will be distributed in accordance with the Plan of Allocation. Such list shall be final, and only persons on the list or their Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees shall be eligible to receive any recovery from this Settlement.

5.6. After the distribution of the Net Settlement Amount and allocation of the Net Settlement Amount pursuant to the Plan of Allocation, amounts allocable to Class Members who cannot be located or otherwise cannot receive their Settlement payment shall revert to the Qualified Settlement Fund.

6. ARTICLE 6 – ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND EXPENSES

6.1. Application for Attorneys’ Fees and Costs and Class Representative’s Case Contribution Award. Class Counsel intends to seek Attorneys’ Fees and Costs not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount (a maximum amount of \$41,666.67), which shall be recovered from the Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel will not separately seek reimbursement for any litigation costs and expenses advanced and carried by Class Counsel in connection with the Recordkeeping Claim. Class Counsel also intends to seek a Case Contribution Award in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the Class Representative, which shall be recovered from the Gross Settlement Amount.

6.2. Class Counsel will file a motion for an award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs no later than forty-five (45) calendar days before the date of the Fairness Hearing specified in the Preliminary Approval Order.

7. ARTICLE 7 – RELEASE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

7.1. As of the Settlement Effective Date, the Plan (subject to Independent Fiduciary approval as required by Section 2.1) and the Class Members (and their respective heirs, beneficiaries, executors, administrators, fiduciaries, estates, past and present partners, officers, directors, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns), on their own behalf and on behalf of the Plan, shall fully, finally, and forever settle, release, relinquish, waive, and discharge all Released Parties from the Released Claims, whether or not any Class Member may discover facts in addition to or different from those which the Class Members or Class Counsel now know or believe to be true with respect to the Action and the Released Claims; whether or not any Class Member has executed and delivered a Former Participant Claim Form; whether or not any Class Member receives a monetary benefit from the Settlement, actually received the Settlement Notice, filed an objection to the Settlement or to any application by Class Counsel for an award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs and expenses; and whether or not the objections or claims for distribution of any Class Member have been approved or allowed.

7.2. As of the Settlement Effective Date, the Class Representative, the Class Members (and their respective heirs, beneficiaries, executors, administrators, fiduciaries, estates, past and present partners, officers, directors, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns), and the Plan (subject to Independent Fiduciary approval as required by Section 2.1) expressly agree that they, acting individually or together, or in combination with others, shall not sue or seek to institute, maintain, prosecute, argue, or assert in any action or proceeding (including but not limited to an IRS determination letter proceeding, a Department of Labor proceeding, an arbitration or a proceeding before any state insurance agency or other department or commission), any cause of action, demand, or claim (including, but not limited to, third party claims, crossclaims, or counterclaims) on the basis of, connected with, or arising out of any of the Released Claims. Nothing herein shall preclude any action to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Settlement Agreement. No Released Party shall be subject to liability or expense of any kind to any Class Member or their respective counsel related to the Released Claims except as provided in this Settlement Agreement.

7.3. Class Counsel, the Class Representative, Class Members, or the Plan may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those that they know or believe to be true with respect to the Released Claims. Such facts, had they been known, might have affected the decision to settle with the Released Parties, or the decision to release, relinquish, waive, and discharge the Released Claims, or the decision of a Class Member not to object to the Settlement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Class Member and the Plan shall expressly, upon the entry of the Final Approval Order, be deemed to have, and, by operation of the Final Approval Order, shall have fully, finally, and forever settled, released, relinquished, waived, and discharged any and all Released Claims. The Class Representative, Class Members and the Plan acknowledge and shall be deemed by operation of the Final Approval Order to have acknowledged that the foregoing waiver was bargained for separately and is a key element of the Settlement embodied in this Settlement Agreement of which this release is a part.

7.4. Each Class Representative, each Class Member, and the Plan hereby stipulate and agree with respect to any and all Released Claims that, upon entry of the Final Approval Order, the Class Members and Plan shall be conclusively deemed to, and by operation of the Final Approval Order shall settle, release, relinquish, waive, and discharge any and all rights or benefits they may now have, or in the future may have, under any law relating to the releases of unknown claims pertaining specifically to Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, 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.

Also, the Class Representative, Class Members, and the Plan hereby stipulate and agree with respect to any and all Released Claims that, upon entry of the Final Approval Order, that the Class Members and the Plan shall be conclusively deemed to, and by operation of the Final Approval Order shall waive any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law or of any State or territory within the United States or any foreign country, or any principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent in substance to Section 1542 of the California Civil Code.

7.5. Dismissal With Prejudice. The Released Claims shall be dismissed with prejudice.

7.6. No Impact on Prior Releases. The Released Claims in the Class Action shall not invalidate or impair any prior release of claims by any Class Members against any of the Released Parties.

8. ARTICLE 8 – COVENANTS

The Settling Parties covenant and agree as follows:

8.1. Taxation. Plaintiff acknowledges that the Released Parties have no responsibility for any taxes due on funds deposited in or distributed from the Qualified Settlement Fund or that the Plaintiff or Class Counsel receive from the Gross Settlement Amount. Plaintiff further acknowledges that any such tax payments, and any professional, administrative, or other expenses associated with such tax payments, shall be paid out of the Qualified Settlement Fund. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission or representation that any such taxes will or will not be due.

8.2. Cooperation. Defendants shall cooperate with Class Counsel by using reasonable efforts to provide, to the extent reasonably accessible, information to identify Class Members and to implement the Plan of Allocation.

8.2.1. Defendants or Defense Counsel shall work with the Recordkeeper to provide to the Settlement Administrator and/or Class Counsel data regarding Class Members (including names, dates of birth, the final four digits of social security numbers, employee identification numbers, dates of employment, last known primary address, Beneficiary and Alternate Payee information (as applicable), and end-of-quarter account balances throughout the Class Period), to the extent available from reasonably accessible electronic records maintained by the Recordkeeper, for purposes of effecting the

administration of the Plan of Allocation. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendants, and Defense Counsel will not be responsible or liable in any way for ensuring the completeness or accuracy of the information provided by the Recordkeeper pursuant to this section.

8.2.2. The Settlement Administrator shall use the information provided by Defendants, Defense Counsel, and/or the Recordkeeper pursuant to Section 8.2.1 to compile a preliminary list of Class Members for purposes of sending the Class Notice and calculating payments pursuant to the Plan of Allocation.

8.2.3. Class Counsel and their agents will use any information provided by Defendants, Defense Counsel, and/or the Recordkeeper pursuant to Section 8.2.1 solely and for no other purpose than providing notice and administering this Settlement and will take all reasonable and necessary steps as required by law and in accordance with the Protective Order entered in this Action to maintain the security and confidentiality of this information.

8.3. The Settling Parties shall reasonably cooperate with each other to effectuate this Settlement, including with respect to the Plan of Allocation, and shall not do anything or take any position inconsistent with obtaining a prompt Final Approval Order approving the Settlement unless expressly permitted by this Settlement Agreement. The Settling Parties shall suspend any and all efforts to prosecute and to defend the Class Action pending entry of the Final Approval Order or, if earlier, termination of the Settlement Agreement.

9. ARTICLE 9 – REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES

9.1. Settling Parties' Representations and Warranties. The Settling Parties, and each of them, represent and warrant as follows, and each Settling Party acknowledges that each other Settling Party is relying on these representations and warranties in entering into this Settlement Agreement:

9.1.1. That they have diligently prepared the case pursuant to the Court's orders; that they are voluntarily entering into this Settlement Agreement as a result of arm's-length negotiations; that in executing this Settlement Agreement they are relying solely upon their own judgment, belief and knowledge, and the advice and recommendations of their own independently selected counsel, concerning the nature, extent, and duration of their rights and claims hereunder and regarding all matters which relate in any way to the subject matter hereof; and that, except as provided herein, they have not been influenced to any extent whatsoever in executing this Settlement Agreement by any representations, statements, or omissions pertaining to any of the foregoing matters by any Settling Party or by any Person representing any Settling Party to this Settlement Agreement. Each Settling Party assumes the risk of mistake as to facts or law. Each Settling Party further recognizes that additional evidence may come to light, but that they nevertheless desire to avoid the expense and uncertainty of litigation by entering into the Settlement.

9.1.2. That they have carefully read the contents of this Settlement Agreement, and this Settlement Agreement is signed freely by each Person executing this Settlement Agreement on behalf of each of the Settling Parties. The Settling Parties, and each of them,

further represent and warrant to each other that he, she, they, or it has made such investigation of the facts pertaining to the Settlement, this Settlement Agreement, and all of the matters pertaining thereto, as he, she, they, or it deems necessary.

9.2. Signatories' Representations and Warranties. Each Person executing this Settlement Agreement on behalf of any other Person does hereby personally represent and warrant to the other Settling Parties that he, she, they, or it has the authority to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of, and fully bind, each principal whom such individual represents or purports to represent.

10. ARTICLE 10 – NO ADMISSION OF LIABILITY

10.1. The Settling Parties understand and agree that this Settlement Agreement embodies a compromise settlement of disputed claims, and that nothing in this Settlement Agreement, including the furnishing of consideration for this Settlement Agreement, shall be deemed to constitute any finding, admission, or suggestion, or give rise to any inference, in this or any other proceeding (i) of the truth of any of the allegations contained in the Complaint, (ii) of any wrongdoing or admission of wrongdoing or liability by any Defendants, or (iii) that any particular party had a fiduciary status under ERISA (other than as expressly stated in this Settlement Agreement).

10.2. This Settlement Agreement and the payments made hereunder are made in compromise of disputed claims and are not admissions of any liability of any kind, whether legal or factual. Defendants specifically deny any such liability or wrongdoing and state that they are entering into this Settlement Agreement to eliminate the burden and expense of further litigation of the Recordkeeping Claim. Further, the Class Representative, while believing that the Recordkeeping Claim has merit, has concluded that the terms of this Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Plan, herself, and members of the Settlement Class given, among other things, the inherent risks, difficulties, and delays in complex ERISA litigation such as the Class Action. Neither the fact nor the terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be used, offered, or received in evidence in any action or proceeding for any purpose, except in an action or proceeding to enforce the Settlement or proceedings arising out of or relating to the Final Order.

11. ARTICLE 11 – CONDITIONS TO FINALITY OF SETTLEMENT

This Settlement shall be contingent upon each of the following conditions in this Article 11 being satisfied. The Settling Parties agree that if any of these conditions is not satisfied, then this Settlement Agreement is terminated (subject to Defendants' right to waive the condition set forth in Section 11.4) and the Class Action will, for all purposes with respect to the Settling Parties, revert to its status as of the Settlement Agreement Execution Date.

11.1. Court Approval and Class Certification for Settlement Purposes. The Court shall have certified the Settlement Class for settlement purposes (and Defendants will not object to this certification for settlement purposes), the Settlement shall have been approved by the Court, the Court shall have entered the Final Approval Order substantially in the form attached as Exhibit D hereto, and the Settlement Effective Date shall have occurred.

11.2. Finality of Settlement. The Settlement shall have become Final.

11.3. Resolution of CAFA Objections (If Any). In the event that any of the government officials who received a CAFA Notice objects to and requests modification(s) to the Settlement, the Class Representative and Class Counsel agree to cooperate and work with the Defendants and Defense Counsel to overcome such objection(s) and requested modification(s). In the event such objection(s) or requested modification(s) are not overcome, Defendants shall have the right to terminate the Settlement Agreement pursuant to Article 12.

11.4. Settlement Authorized by Independent Fiduciary. At least forty-five (45) calendar days before the Fairness Hearing, the Independent Fiduciary shall have approved and authorized in writing the Settlement and given a release to all of the Released Parties in its capacity as fiduciary of the Plan for and on behalf of the Plan in accordance with PTE 2003-39. If the Independent Fiduciary disapproves or otherwise does not authorize the Settlement or refuses to execute the release on behalf of the Plan, then the Settling Parties may mutually agree to modify the terms of this Settlement Agreement as necessary to facilitate an approval by the Independent Fiduciary and/or the Independent Fiduciary's release on behalf of the Plan. Otherwise, Defendants shall have the option to waive this condition, in which case such option is to be exercised in writing within fifteen (15) business days after the Settling Parties' receipt of the Independent Fiduciary's written determination, unless otherwise agreed by the Settling Parties.

12. ARTICLE 12 – TERMINATION, CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT, AND EFFECT OF DISAPPROVAL, CANCELLATION, OR TERMINATION

12.1. The Settlement Agreement shall automatically terminate, and thereby become null and void with no further force or effect if:

12.1.1. Under Section 2.1, (a) either the Independent Fiduciary does not approve the Settlement Agreement or disapproves the Settlement Agreement for any reason whatsoever, or Defendants reasonably conclude that the Independent Fiduciary's approval does not include the determinations required by the PTE 2003-39; and (b) the Settling Parties do not mutually agree to modify the terms of this Settlement Agreement to facilitate an approval by the Independent Fiduciary or the Independent Fiduciary's determinations required by PTE 2003-39; and (c) Defendants do not exercise their option to waive this condition as provided in Section 11.4;

12.1.2. The Preliminary Approval Order or the Final Approval Order is not entered by the Court in substantially the form submitted by the Settling Parties or in a form which is otherwise agreed to by the Settling Parties;

12.1.3. The Settlement Class is not certified as defined herein or in a form which is otherwise agreed to by the Settling Parties;

12.1.4. This Settlement Agreement is disapproved by the Court or fails to become effective and the Settling Parties do not mutually agree to modify the Settlement Agreement in order to obtain the Court's approval or otherwise effectuate the Settlement; or

12.1.5. The Preliminary Order or Final Approval Order is finally reversed on appeal, or is modified on appeal, and the Settling Parties do not mutually agree to any such modifications.

12.2. If the Settlement Agreement is terminated, deemed null and void, or has no further force or effect, the Class Action and the Released Claims asserted by the Class Representative shall for all purposes with respect to the Settling Parties revert to their status as though the Settling Parties never executed the Settlement Agreement. All funds deposited in the Qualified Settlement Fund, and any interest earned thereon, shall be returned to Defendants or their insurer within thirty (30) calendar days after the Settlement Agreement is finally terminated or deemed null and void.

12.3. If the Settlement Agreement is terminated, Administrative Expenses incurred prior to the termination shall be paid first from the interest earned, if any, on the Qualified Settlement Fund. Administrative Expenses in excess of the interest earned on the Qualified Settlement Fund shall be split evenly and paid by Class Counsel, on the one hand, and Defendants, on the other hand. However, if Defendants terminate the Settlement Agreement unilaterally, then Administrative Expenses in excess of the interest earned on the Qualified Settlement Fund shall be paid by Defendants solely, and if Plaintiff terminates the Settlement Agreement unilaterally, then Administrative Expenses in excess of the interest earned on the Qualified Settlement Fund shall be paid by Class Counsel solely.

12.4. It shall not be deemed a failure to approve the Settlement Agreement if the Court denies, in whole or in part, Class Counsel's request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and/or Class Representative's Case Contribution Award and/or modifies any of the proposed orders relating to Attorneys' Fees and Costs and/or Class Representative's Case Contribution Awards.

13. ARTICLE 13 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND PERMITTED SETTLEMENT-RELATED COMMUNICATIONS

13.1. Except as set forth explicitly below, the Settling Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel agree to keep confidential all positions, assertions, and offers made during settlement negotiations relating to the Class Action and the Settlement Agreement, except that they may discuss the negotiations with the Class Members, the Independent Fiduciary, and the Settling Parties' tax, legal, and regulatory advisors, provided in each case that they comply with this Article 13 in all other respects.

13.2. The Settlement Administrator, at the direction of Class Counsel, will establish a Settlement Website on which it will post the following documents or links to the following documents following the date of the Preliminary Approval Order: the Complaint, Settlement Agreement and its Exhibits, Settlement Notice, Former Participant Claim Form, Plaintiff's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Class Representative Case Contribution Award, any Court orders related to the Settlement, any amendments or revisions to these documents, and any other documents or information mutually agreed upon by the Settlement Parties.

13.3. The Defendants, Class Representative, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel agree that they will not at any time make (or encourage or induce others to make) any public statement regarding the Class Action or the Settlement that disparages any Released Party; provided,

however, that this prohibition does not preclude Class Counsel from restating the allegations made in the Complaint for purposes of the motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, or the request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Administrative Expenses, and Class Representative Case Contribution Award, or as necessary to provide notice to the Settlement Class or litigate the surviving Investment Claim. This prohibition does not prohibit any Settling Party from making any statement pursuant to a valid legal process, a request by a regulatory agency, or as required by law.

13.4. The Defendants, Class Representative, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel agree that they will not issue any press release regarding the Settlement, affirmatively contact any media sources regarding the Settlement, or respond to any request for comment on the Settlement by the media other than to state that the party will not comment on ongoing litigation. Nothing in this section shall prevent Class Counsel from maintaining non-confidential information related to the Settlement on their websites, blogs, or social media accounts, or firm resumés or biographies, nor shall this section prevent notice as otherwise agreed upon by the Settling Parties.

13.5. The Defendants, Class Representative, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel agree that they will not publicly disclose the terms of the Settlement until after the motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement has been filed with the Court, other than as necessary to administer the Settlement, or unless such disclosure is pursuant to a valid legal process, a request by a regulatory agency, or as otherwise required by law, government regulations, or order of the Court.

14. ARTICLE 14 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

14.1. Defendants agree to complete a request for proposal for the Plan's recordkeeping and administrative services on or before December 31, 2026.

15. ARTICLE 15 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

15.1. The Settling Parties agree to cooperate fully with each other in seeking Court approvals of the Preliminary Approval Order and the Final Approval Order, and to undertake all tasks as may reasonably be required to effectuate preliminary and final approval and the implementation of this Settlement Agreement according to its terms. The Settling Parties agree to provide each other with copies of any filings necessary to effectuate this Settlement reasonably in advance of filing.

15.2. This Settlement Agreement, whether or not consummated, and any negotiations or proceedings hereunder are not, and shall not be construed as, deemed to be, or offered or received as evidence of an admission by or on the part of any Released Party of any wrongdoing, fault, or liability whatsoever by any Released Party, or give rise to any inference of any wrongdoing, fault, or liability or admission of any wrongdoing, fault, or liability in the Class Action or any other proceeding.

15.3. The Defendants and Released Parties admit no wrongdoing, fault, or liability with respect to any of the allegations or claims in the Class Action. This Settlement Agreement, whether or not consummated, and any negotiations or proceedings hereunder, shall not constitute admissions of any liability of any kind, whether legal or factual. Subject to Federal Rule of

Evidence 408, the Settlement and the negotiations related to it are not admissible as substantive evidence, for purposes of impeachment, or for any other purpose.

15.4. Defendants deny all allegations of wrongdoing. Defendants believe that the Plan has been managed, operated, and administered at all relevant times reasonably and prudently, in the best interest of the Plan's participants, and in accordance with ERISA, including the fiduciary duty and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA.

15.5. Neither the Settling Parties, Class Counsel, nor Defense Counsel shall have any responsibility for or liability whatsoever with respect to: (a) any act, omission, or determination of the Settlement Administrator, or any of their respective designees or agents, in connection with the administration of the Gross Settlement Amount or otherwise; (b) the determination of the Independent Fiduciary; (c) the management, investment, or distribution of the Qualified Settlement Fund; (d) the Plan of Allocation as approved by the Court; (e) the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any claims asserted against the Qualified Settlement Fund; (f) any losses suffered by, or fluctuations in the value of, the Qualified Settlement Fund; or (g) the payment or withholding of any taxes, expenses, and/or costs incurred in connection with the taxation of the Qualified Settlement Fund or tax reporting, or the filing of any returns. Further, neither Defendants nor Defense Counsel shall have any responsibility for or liability whatsoever with respect to any act, omission, or determination of Class Counsel in connection with the administration of the Gross Settlement Amount, or otherwise.

15.6. The Released Parties shall not have any responsibility for or liability whatsoever with respect to the Plan of Allocation, including but not limited to the determination of the Plan of Allocation or the reasonableness of the Plan of Allocation.

15.7. The Settling Parties acknowledge that any payments to Class Members or their attorneys may be subject to applicable tax laws. The Defendants, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and Class Representative will provide no tax advice to the Class Members and make no representation regarding the tax consequences of any of the settlement payments described in the Settlement Agreement. To the extent that any portion of any Settlement payment is subject to income or other tax, the recipient of the payment shall be responsible for payment of such tax. Deductions will be made, and reporting will be performed by the Settlement Administrator, as required by law in respect of all payments made under the Settlement Agreement. Payments from the Qualified Settlement Fund shall not be treated as wages by the Settling Parties.

15.8. Each Class Member who receives a payment under this Settlement Agreement shall be fully and ultimately responsible for payment of any and all federal, state, or local taxes resulting from or attributable to the payment received by such person. Each such Class Member shall hold the Released Parties, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator harmless from any tax liability, including penalties and interest, related in any way to payments under the Settlement Agreement, and shall hold the Released Parties, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator harmless from the costs (including, for example, Attorneys' Fees and disbursements) of any proceedings (including, for example, investigation and suit), related to such tax liability.

15.9. Only Class Counsel may seek enforcement of this Settlement Agreement on behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members. Any individual concerned about Defendants' compliance with this Settlement Agreement may so notify Class Counsel and direct any requests for enforcement to them. Class Counsel shall have the full and sole discretion to take whatever action they deem appropriate that is not in contravention to this Settlement Agreement, or to refrain from taking any action, in response to such request. Any action by Class Counsel to monitor or enforce the Settlement Agreement shall be done without additional fee or reimbursement of expenses from the Qualified Settlement Fund beyond the Attorneys' Fees and Costs determined by the Court.

15.10. This Settlement Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with applicable federal law and, to the extent that federal law does not govern, California law.

15.11. The Settling Parties agree that the Court has personal jurisdiction over the Settlement Class and Defendants and shall maintain personal and subject-matter jurisdiction for purposes of resolving any disputes between the Settling Parties concerning compliance with this Settlement Agreement. Any motion or action to enforce this Settlement Agreement—including by way of injunction—shall be filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California or asserted by way of an affirmative defense or counterclaim in response to any action asserting a violation of the Settlement Agreement.

15.12. Each party to this Settlement Agreement hereby acknowledges that he, she, they, or it has consulted with and obtained the advice of counsel prior to executing this Settlement Agreement and that this Settlement Agreement has been explained to that party by his, her, their, or its counsel.

15.13. Before entry of the Preliminary Approval Order and approval of the Independent Fiduciary, this Settlement Agreement may be modified or amended only by written agreement signed by or on behalf of all Settling Parties. Following approval by the Independent Fiduciary, this Settlement Agreement may be modified or amended only if such modification or amendment is set forth in a written agreement signed by or on behalf of all Settling Parties and only if the Independent Fiduciary approves such modification or amendment in writing. Following entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, this Settlement Agreement may be modified or amended only by written agreement signed on behalf of all Settling Parties, and only if the modification or amendment is approved by the Independent Fiduciary in writing and approved by the Court.

15.14. The provisions of this Settlement Agreement may be waived only by an instrument in writing executed by the waiving party and specifically waiving such provisions. The waiver of any breach of this Settlement Agreement by any party shall not be deemed to be or construed as a waiver of any other breach or waiver by any other party, whether prior, subsequent, or contemporaneous, of this Settlement Agreement.

15.15. Each of the Settling Parties agrees, without further consideration, and as part of finalizing the Settlement hereunder, that it will in good faith execute and deliver such other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary to consummate and effectuate the subject matter of this Settlement Agreement.

15.16. All of the exhibits attached hereto are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. The exhibits shall be: Exhibit A – Notice of Class Action Settlement and Fairness Hearing; Exhibit A-1 – Former Participant Claim Form; Exhibit B – Plan of Allocation; Exhibit C – Preliminary Approval Order; Exhibit D – Final Approval Order; and Exhibit E – Form of CAFA Notice.

15.17. No provision of the Settlement Agreement or of the exhibits attached hereto shall be construed against or interpreted to the disadvantage of any party to the Settlement Agreement because that party is deemed to have prepared, structured, drafted, or requested the provision.

15.18. Principles of Interpretation. The following principles of interpretation apply to this Settlement Agreement:

15.18.1. Headings. Any headings included in this Settlement Agreement are for convenience only and do not in any way limit, alter, or affect the matters contained in this Settlement Agreement or the Articles or Sections they caption.

15.18.2. Singular and Plural. Definitions apply to the singular and plural forms of each term defined.

15.18.3. Gender. Definitions apply regardless of and equally to any gender of each term defined.

15.18.4. References to a Person. References to a Person are also to the Person's permitted successors and assigns, except as otherwise provided herein.

15.18.5. Terms of Inclusion. Whenever the words "include," "includes," or "including" are used in this Settlement Agreement, they shall not be limiting but rather shall be deemed to be followed by the words "without limitation."

15.19. Non-Severable. The provisions of this Settlement Agreement are not severable.

15.20. Survival. All of the covenants, representations, and warranties, express or implied, oral or written, concerning the subject matter of this Settlement Agreement are contained in this Settlement Agreement. No Party is relying on any oral representations or oral agreements. All such covenants, representations, and warranties set forth in this Settlement Agreement shall be deemed continuing and shall survive the Settlement Effective Date.

15.21. Notices. Any notice, demand, or other communication under this Settlement Agreement (other than the Settlement Notice, or other notices given at the direction of the Court) shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given upon receipt if it is addressed to each of the intended recipients as set forth below and personally delivered, sent by registered or certified mail postage prepaid, or delivered by reputable express overnight courier or via e-mail:

IF TO CLASS REPRESENTATIVE:

Laurie Rubinow

lrubinow@millershah.com

Alec J. Berin

ajberin@millershah.com

65 Main Street

Chester, CT 06412

(866) 540-5505

IF TO DEFENDANT:

Brantley Webb

bwebb@mayerbrown.com

Mayer Brown LLP

1999 K Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006-1101

Elaine Liu

eliu@mayerbrown.com

Mayer Brown LLP

71 South Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60606

Any Settling Party may change the address at which it is to receive notice by written notice delivered to the other Settling Parties in the manner described above.

15.22. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and the exhibits attached hereto constitute the entire agreement among the Settling Parties. No representations, warranties, or inducements have been made to any party concerning the Settlement other than those contained in this Settlement Agreement and the exhibits thereto. It specifically supersedes any settlement terms or settlement agreements relating to the Defendants that were previously agreed upon orally or in writing by any of the Settling Parties.

15.23. Counterparts. The Settlement Agreement may be executed by exchange of executed signature pages, and any signature transmitted by facsimile or e-mail attachment of scanned signature pages for the purpose of executing this Settlement Agreement shall be deemed an original signature for purposes of this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each of such counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed an original, and all such counterparts shall together constitute the same instrument.

15.24. Binding Effect. This Settlement Agreement binds and inures to the benefit of the Settling Parties hereto, their assigns, heirs, administrators, executors, and successors.

15.25. Dispute Resolution. If a dispute arises about compliance with this Settlement Agreement after it has been approved and executed, the dispute will be mediated by a neutral party to be agreed upon by the Settling Parties, who will make a non-binding decision regarding the dispute. The cost of any such mediation shall be split equally between Plaintiff and Defendants. Each Settling Party shall bear its own fees and costs. If the dispute is not resolved through mediation, either Settling Party may request that the Court resolve the dispute.

15.26. Extensions of Time. The Settling Parties may agree, subject to the approval of the Court where required, to reasonable extensions of time to carry out the provisions of this Settlement Agreement.

15.27. Communication with Participants. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement or the Settlement shall prevent or inhibit Defendants' ability to communicate with current or former participants of the Plan.

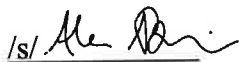
15.28. Destruction/Return of and Restricted Use of Confidential Information. The Settling Parties agree that the preliminary and final lists of Class Members, including their Plan account information, are deemed Confidential pursuant to the Protective Order. The Settling Parties also agree that these lists, including Plan account information, may not be used for any purpose other than to administer this Settlement. The Settling Parties shall have the right to continue to designate documents, data, or other information provided to any party in connection with this Settlement Agreement as Confidential. At no time may any documents, data, or information designated as Confidential for this Settlement be used with respect to the litigation of the Investment Claim or any other litigation or proceeding, with the exception that documents, data, or information produced in response to discovery requests preceding this Settlement Agreement may be used with respect to the litigation of the Investment Claim.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Settling Parties have executed this Settlement Agreement on the dates set forth below.

Dated: September 2, 2025

On behalf of Plaintiff, the Plan, and the Settlement Class:

MILLER SHAH LLP

/s/ 

James C. Shah
jcshah@millershah.com
19712 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 222
Irvine, CA 92612
(866) 540-5505

James E. Miller
jemiller@millershah.com
Laurie Rubinow
lrubinow@millershah.com
65 Main Street
Chester, CT 06412
(866) 540-5505

On behalf of Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC and the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee:

MAYER BROWN LLP

/s/ 

Nancy G. Ross
nross@mayerbrown.com
Elaine Liu
eliu@mayerbrown.com
71 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 782-0600

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1999 K Street NW
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Alec J. Berin
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1845 Walnut Street, Suite 806
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(866) 540-5505

EXHIBIT A

**YOU MAY BE A CLASS MEMBER IN A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
IN A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT.**

**YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NOTICE BECAUSE YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW
ABOUT THE PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT IN WHICH YOU ARE
POTENTIALLY A CLASS MEMBER BEFORE THE COURT DECIDES WHETHER
TO APPROVE IT.**

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

NORMA VALENZUELA, individually and
as a representative of a class of similarly
situated persons, on behalf of the
ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

ADVANTAGE SALES & MARKETING
LLC, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ADVANTAGE SALES & MARKETING
LLC, THE ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS
PLAN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE,
and DOES No. 1–20, Whose Names Are
Currently Unknown,

Defendants.

Case No. 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION AND PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

***IF YOU WERE A PARTICIPANT IN THE ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN
BETWEEN MARCH 4, 2018 AND [INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE], YOU
COULD RECEIVE A PAYMENT AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY
THIS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT.***

A Federal Court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

This Notice advises you of the settlement (the “Settlement”) of a lawsuit against Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC and the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee (collectively, “Defendants”). In the lawsuit, Plaintiff Norma Valenzuela (“Plaintiff,” and with Defendants, the “Parties”) alleges that Defendants violated the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”) in the administration of the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan (the “Plan”). Defendants deny the allegations and that they have engaged in any wrongdoing, and Defendants contend that their conduct was entirely proper.

YOU SHOULD READ THIS ENTIRE NOTICE CAREFULLY BECAUSE YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED, WHETHER YOU ACT OR NOT.

Your rights and options, and the deadline for you to object if you are opposed to the Settlement, are explained in this Notice. The terms and conditions of the Settlement are set forth in the Settlement Agreement dated September 2, 2025. Capitalized terms used in this Notice but not defined herein have the meanings assigned to them in the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement is available at strategicclaims.net/Advantage401k. Any amendments to the Settlement Agreement or any other settlement documents will be posted on that website. You should visit that website if you would like more information about the Settlement and any possible amendments to the Settlement Agreement or other changes affecting the Settlement.

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BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I get this Notice?

Records indicate that you are or may be a Current Participant, Former Participant, Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a Participant or Former Participant, of the Plan at any time on or after March 4, 2018, through and including [INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE] (the “Class Period”).¹

You may be a Class Member of the proposed settlement of a class action lawsuit. You are receiving this Notice because you have a right to know about the proposed settlement of a class action lawsuit in which you are potentially a Class Member before the Court decides whether to provide final approval of the Settlement.

This Notice summarizes the lawsuit, the Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible to receive them, and how to get them.

The lawsuit is pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California (the “Court”). It is known as *Valenzuela v. Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC*, Case No. 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES (C.D. Cal.) and is brought against Defendants.

2. What is this lawsuit about?

On March 4, 2024, Plaintiff filed an action against Defendants Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC, the Board of Directors of Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC, and the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee, alleging that their administration of the Plan violated ERISA. Specifically, Plaintiff claimed that Defendants failed to appropriately monitor the Plan’s investments and retained an imprudent investment in the Plan (“Investment Claim”) and caused the Plan to pay excessive recordkeeping and administrative fees (“Recordkeeping Claim”). Defendants moved to dismiss the case and, following briefing on the initial complaint as well as an amended complaint, the Court granted in part and denied in part the motion to dismiss. The Parties engaged in written discovery and exchanged document productions. In June 2025, the Parties were ultimately able to reach the terms of the Settlement explained in this Notice. The Settlement resolves the Recordkeeping Claim and permits Plaintiff to continue litigating the Investment Claim. Defendants have denied and continue to deny any wrongdoing or liability, have contended and continue to contend that their conduct was entirely proper, and have asserted a number of defenses and will continue to vigorously defend the Recordkeeping Claim if the proposed Settlement is not approved.

3. What is a class action lawsuit?

In a class action lawsuit, one or more people called “class representatives” sue on their own behalf and on behalf of other people who they allege have similar claims. One court resolves all the issues for all class members in a single lawsuit. Plaintiff is the proposed class representative in this

¹ Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Notice shall have the same meaning as in the Settlement Agreement, which is available at strategicclaims.net/Advantage401k.

lawsuit, and is sometimes referred to in this Notice as the “Class Representative” or as “Plaintiff.”

4. Why is there a settlement?

The Parties have agreed to the Settlement after extensive negotiations. By agreeing to a settlement, the Parties avoid the costs and risks of further litigation with respect to the Recordkeeping Claim, and Plaintiff and the other Class Members will receive compensation as well as the benefit of negotiated non-monetary relief. Class Counsel have conducted an extensive review of the evidence in the case and the potential risks and benefits of continued litigation as to Recordkeeping Claim. Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree that the Settlement is in the best interest of the Settlement Class. The Court has not made any finding that Defendants have done anything wrong or violated any law or regulation. In addition, the Plan has retained or will retain an independent fiduciary to evaluate the fairness of the Settlement.

5. How do I get more information about the Settlement?

This notice summarizes the proposed settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement, please see the Settlement Agreement, which is available at [strategicclaims.net/Advantage401k](https://ecf.cacd.uscourts.gov/strategicclaims.net/Advantage401k), by contacting Class Counsel (see answer to questions 12 and 16 for contact information) or the Settlement Administrator (see answer to question 6 for contact information), or by accessing the Court docket in this case, for a fee, through the Court’s Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system at <https://ecf.cacd.uscourts.gov/>.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT, THE COURT CLERK’S OFFICE, DEFENDANTS, OR DEFENSE COUNSEL TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT OR THE CLAIM PROCESS.

6. Who will administer the Settlement?

The Settlement Administrator, Strategic Claims Services, will administer the Settlement, including the processing of the Former Participant Claim Form, if applicable, that you may need to fill out and send in to receive any settlement payment. You may contact the Settlement Administrator by: (a) sending a letter to Advantage 401k Settlement Administrator, c/o Strategic Claims Services, 600 N Jackson St #205, Media, PA 19063; (b) sending an e-mail to info@strategicclaims.net; (c) visiting the Settlement website at [strategicclaims.net/Advantage401k](https://ecf.cacd.uscourts.gov/strategicclaims.net/Advantage401k); or (d) calling toll-free at (866) 274-4004.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS – WHAT THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDES

7. What does the Settlement provide?

Defendants have agreed to pay a total of \$125,000.00 to the Class Members (“Gross Settlement Amount”) and conduct a request for proposal for the Plan’s recordkeeping services before the end of 2026 in exchange for the release of the Recordkeeping Claim. The Settlement Agreement provides the specific terms regarding the scope of the release and the claims at issue. As set forth

in greater detail in the Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel intends to ask the Court to approve the following payments that would be made from the Gross Settlement Amount: (a) attorneys' fees and costs not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount; (b) a Case Contribution Award of up to \$5,000 for the Class Representative; and (c) Administrative Expenses associated with providing notice and distributing the settlement fund.

The amount that will be available for distribution to Class Members ("Net Settlement Amount") will be the Gross Settlement Amount *minus* the amounts used for other approved settlement purposes.

8. How may I benefit from the Settlement?

You may be entitled to payment of a portion of the Net Settlement Amount. The amount paid to each Current Participant, Former Participant, Beneficiary, or Alternate Payee will be determined by a Plan of Allocation.

As explained below, if you are a Current Participant or Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a Current Participant and you have an Active Account in the Plan, you do not need to take any action to receive payment under the Settlement. Payments to Current Participants or Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees of Current Participants with Active Accounts in the Plan shall be made into these persons' individual investment accounts in the Plan.

If you are a Former Participant, or a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a Former Participant, and you no longer have an Active Account in the Plan, you will need to submit a Former Participant Claim Form by the submission deadline to receive payment under the Settlement. Payments to Former Participants or Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees of Former Participants who do not have Active Accounts in the Plan may be made either by check or tax-qualified rollover to an individual retirement account or other eligible employer plan.

Assuming the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Net Settlement Amount will be placed in an escrow account pending resolution of the Investment Claim and distribution of the Net Settlement Amount will occur *after* resolution of the Investment Claim. This will reduce the Administrative Expenses associated with distribution of the Net Settlement Amount, improve administrative efficiencies of distributing settlement amounts to Class Members, and allow for any further amount recovered in connection with the Investment Claim be distributed at the same time, ensuring the greatest amount possible is available for distribution to members of the Settlement Class. The Court will approve of this escrow plan as part of its overall approval of the Settlement.

9. How do I submit a claim for a Settlement Payment?

If you are a Current Participant or a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a Current Participant with an Active Account in the Plan, you do not need to submit a claim to be eligible for a payment under the Settlement. You will receive any payment for which you are eligible automatically in your Plan account. If you are a Former Participant or a Beneficiary or an Alternate Payee of a Former Participant and you do not have an Active Account in the Plan, you must submit a Former Participant Claim Form by the submission deadline in order to be eligible for payment under the

Settlement. “Former Participant” means a member of the Settlement Class who does not have an Active Account (*i.e.*, a balance greater than \$0) as of [INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE].

If you are a Former Participant or a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a Former Participant and you do not have an Active Account in the Plan, and you want to receive any monetary benefits from the Settlement, you must submit the Former Participant Claim Form by no later than _____ [INSERT ACTUAL DATE OF 120 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER]. You must mail the Former Participant Claim Form to the address shown on the Form.

A Former Participant Claim Form will be deemed submitted when it is actually received by the Settlement Administrator at the address listed in the Former Participant Claim Form.

Even if you do not submit a Former Participant Claim Form, you will be bound by the Settlement. (See answer to question 14 below.)

10. What is the Plaintiff receiving from the Settlement?

Class Counsel intends to ask the Court to award the Class Representative a Case Contribution Award of up to \$5,000.00 in recognition of the work and effort she expended on behalf of the Class.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS – WHAT YOU GIVE UP

11. What do I give up by participating in the Settlement?

Each Class Member gives Defendants a “release.” A release means you give up your rights to sue Defendants or receive any benefits from any other lawsuit against Defendants if the lawsuit asserts similar claims to or relates in any way to the practices or decisions at issue in connection with the Recordkeeping Claim.

For additional details about the scope of the release, consult the Settlement Agreement or contact Class Counsel. (See answer to question 5 for details.)

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

12. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Yes. The Court has appointed the law firm of Miller Shah LLP as Class Counsel. You will not be charged for the work of these lawyers. If you want to be represented by a different lawyer in this case, you may hire one at your own expense.

13. Will the lawyers (Class Counsel) be paid?

Under the Settlement, Class Counsel may seek up to one-third of the Gross Settlement amount as

approved Attorneys' Fees and Costs, subject to approval by the Court. Class Counsel will not separately seek reimbursement of litigation expenses that they advanced and carried throughout the course of litigating the Recordkeeping Claim.

OPTING OUT OF THE SETTLEMENT

14. Can I exclude myself from the Settlement Class?

No. The Settlement Class has been certified under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(1). Therefore, as a Class Member, you are bound by any judgments or orders entered in the lawsuit for all claims included as Released Claims (as defined in the Settlement Agreement). If you wish to object to any part of the Settlement, you may write to the Court and counsel about why you object to the Settlement.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

15. What does it mean to object?

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlement. Objecting will not have any bearing on your right to receive the benefits of the Settlement if it is approved by the Court.

16. What is the procedure for objecting to the Settlement?

You can ask the Court to deny approval of the Settlement and/or the anticipated motion for expenses of Class Counsel and a Case Contribution Award for the Class Representative by filing an objection. You cannot ask the Court to order a different settlement; the Court can only approve or reject the Settlement. If the Court denies approval, no settlement payments will be sent out in connection with the Recordkeeping Claim, and the lawsuit will continue. If that is what you want to happen, you must object.

The Court, because of an objection or its own discretion, can award less than the amount requested by Class Counsel for Attorneys' Fees and Costs or the amount requested for the Case Contribution Award. While such a ruling could affect the timing and amount of settlement payments, any Court ordered reduction in Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and expenses or the case contribution awards to be paid to the Class Representatives will not otherwise affect the finality of the Settlement.

Any objection to the proposed Settlement or the anticipated motion for expenses of Class Counsel and a Case Contribution Award for the Class Representative must be in writing in accordance with the requirements in the Preliminary Approval Order. If you file a timely written objection, you may, but are not required to, appear at the Fairness Hearing, either in person or through your own attorney. If you appear through your own attorney, you are responsible for hiring and paying that attorney.

All written objections and supporting papers must: (a) clearly identify the case name and number as *Valenzuela v. Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC*, Case No. 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES (C.D.

Cal.); (b) be submitted to the Court either by mailing them to the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court for the Central District of California, 350 W 1st Street, Suite 4311, Los Angeles, CA 90012-4565, or by filing them in person at any location of the United States District Court for the Central District of California; and (c) be filed or postmarked on or before _____ **[INSERT ACTUAL DATE OF 30 DAYS BEFORE THE FAIRNESS HEARING].**

Your objection must also include: (1) your full name, current address, and current telephone number, and, if represented by counsel, any of your counsel's names and contact information; (2) a written statement of your objection(s), specifying the reason(s) for each objection, including any supporting evidence, and whether the objection applies only to you, to a specific subset of the Settlement Class, or to the entire Settlement Class; (3) copies of any papers, brief, or other documents upon which the objection is based; (4) a list of all persons who will be called to testify in support of the objection; (5) a list of any other objections to any class action settlements you or anyone acting on your behalf has submitted in any court in the United States, whether state, federal, or otherwise, in the previous five years; and (6) your signature, even if you are represented by counsel.

Any party may file a response to an objection by a Class Member at least seven calendar days before the Fairness Hearing. Please note that the Preliminary Approval Order for this Settlement provides that any party to the litigation may, but is not required to, serve discovery requests, including requests for documents and notice of deposition not to exceed two hours in length, on any objector. Any responses to discovery, or any depositions, must be completed within ten calendar days of the request being served on the objector.

ANY CLASS MEMBER WHO DOES NOT OBJECT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WAIVED ANY OBJECTION AND SHALL NOT HAVE ANY RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE FAIRNESS OR ADEQUACY OF THE SETTLEMENT.

Clerk of the Court

U.S. District Court for the
Central District of California
Clerk of Court
350 W 1st Street, Suite 4311
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4565

Class Counsel

Laurie Rubinow
Alec J. Berin
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Defense Counsel

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THE COURT'S FAIRNESS HEARING

17. When/where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court has granted preliminary approval of the proposed Settlement, finding that it is sufficiently reasonable to warrant preliminary approval, and has approved delivery of this notice to Settlement Class Members. But the Settlement will not take effect unless it receives final approval from the Court following an opportunity for Settlement Class Members to object.

On _____, at _____ a.m./p.m. [ACTUAL DATE AND TIME TO BE AT LEAST 140 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER AS ESTABLISHED BY THE COURT], in the United States Courthouse, 350 W 1st Street, Suite 4311, Los Angeles, CA 90012-4565, the Court will hold a Fairness Hearing to determine whether the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and whether it should be approved. The hearing may be continued from time to time by the Court without further notice, and may be held via teleconference or videoconference. Please check the website or contact Class Counsel if you wish to confirm that the hearing time has not been changed and to determine if the hearing is occurring in person or by video or teleconference.

18. Do I have to attend the Fairness Hearing?

No; however, you are welcome to attend at your own expense. If you file an objection to the Settlement, you do not have to go to Court to talk about it. As long as your objection is filed or postmarked by _____ [ACTUAL DATE TO BE 30 DAYS BEFORE THE FAIRNESS HEARING] and you comply with the requirements in the answer to question 16 above, the Court will consider it. You may also send your own lawyer at your expense to attend the Fairness Hearing.

19. May I speak at the Fairness Hearing?

You may ask the Court for permission to speak at the hearing. Anyone wishing to appear must state in their written objection their intention to appear at the Fairness Hearing, at their own expense.

Objectors or their attorneys intending to participate at the Fairness Hearing must file a notice of intention to participate (and, if applicable, the name, address, and telephone number of the objector's attorney) with the Court no later than _____ [ACTUAL DATE TO BE 15 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF FAIRNESS HEARING SPECIFIED IN THE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER]. Any objectors, or their counsel, who do not timely file a notice of intention to participate in accordance with this Paragraph shall not be permitted to speak at the Fairness Hearing, except for good cause shown.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

20. What happens if I do nothing at all?

IF YOU DO NOTHING AND THE COURT APPROVES OF THE SETTLEMENT, YOU AND ALL OTHER CLASS MEMBERS WILL BE BOUND BY THE JUDGMENT AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE RELEASE OF CLAIMS. If you are a Current Participant or a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a Current Participant with an Active Account in the Plan, you do not need to take any action to be eligible to receive the Settlement benefits. If you are a Former Participant or a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a Former Participant and you do not have an Active Account in the Plan, you must submit a Former Participant Claim Form by the submission deadline or you will not receive any of the settlement payments described above in answer to questions 7 and 8.

DATED: _____, 2025 [ACTUAL NOTICE DATE TO BE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER]

**THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN SENT TO YOU BY ORDER OF
THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

EXHIBIT A-1

Former Participant Claim Form

If you were a participant in a defined contribution 401(k) retirement plan known as the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan (the “Plan”) on or after March 4, 2018 through [INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE] (the “Class Period”), but you do not have an Active Account with the Plan, or are a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee (in the case of a person subject to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order) of a Former Participant, and would like to receive a payment from the *Valenzuela v. Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC* ERISA Settlement, you must complete the form below and mail it to Advantage 401k Settlement Administrator, c/o Strategic Claims Services, 600 N Jackson Street, Suite 205, Media, PA 19063 to be received NO LATER THAN [INSERT DEADLINE TO FILE FORMER PARTICIPANT CLAIM FORM].

“Active Account” means an individual investment account in the Plan with a balance greater than \$0. “Former Participant” means a person who had an Active Account with a positive balance in the Plan during the Class Period but who did not have an account with the Plan with a balance greater than \$0 as of [INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE]. “Beneficiary” or “Alternate Payee” means, for the purposes of this Former Participant Claim Form, a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee of a participant in the Plan who maintained a positive account balance in the Plan during the Class Period, but did not have an active account in the Plan as of [INSERT PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE].

Additional information regarding the Settlement is available at strategicclaims.net/Advantage401k.

Participant Information

Name		
Address		
Address 2		
City	State	Zip
Participant’s Social Security Number	Phone (Preferred)	Phone (Alternate)
Participant’s Date of Birth		
Email Address		

Beneficiary or Alternate Payee Information (ONLY PROVIDE IF THIS PERSON SHOULD RECEIVE PAYMENT INSTEAD OF THE PARTICIPANT)

Your Name		
Address		
Address 2		
City	State	Zip
Your Social Security Number	Phone (Preferred)	Phone (Alternate)
Your Date of Birth		
Email Address		

Payment Election (choose only one)

- ☐ I WANT A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO ME AND MAILED TO ME. Choosing this option entails the Settlement Administrator withholding 20% or more of your total payment for tax withholdings. The Settlement Administrator will mail your check to the Name and Address listed above.

OR

- ☐ I WANT A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO MY RETIREMENT ACCOUNT AS A ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTION. PLEASE MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Plan/Employer Name	
Account Name	
Account Number	
Contact or Trustee (if required)	
Address Line 1	
Address Line 2	
City, State, Zip	

NOTE: There is no promise or assurance that these funds are eligible for rollover or tax-preferred treatment. The decision to seek rollover treatment is yours alone. Any questions about taxation or rollover treatment must be directed to your tax advisor or accountant. No one associated with this case can provide you with assistance or advice of any kind in this regard or answer any tax questions.

Required Certification Regarding Qualified Domestic Relations Order (“QDRO”): I hereby certify and represent under penalty of perjury that no portion of the payment to be received hereunder is subject to a QDRO, or, that a true, accurate, and current copy of any applicable QDRO is attached hereto along with the name and address of any payee other than the Class Member. Payment will be made in accordance with any QDRO supplied.

Signature (Required): _____ **Date:** _____

Deceased Class Members

Deceased Class Members are not eligible for rollover treatment. A Beneficiary of a deceased person who was a participant in the Plan at any time during the Class Period, including executors, heirs, assigns, estates, personal representatives, or successors-in-interest, must provide the following information with this Former Participant Claim Form to Advantage 401k Settlement Administrator, c/o Strategic Claims Services, 600 N Jackson Street, Suite 205, Media PA 19063:

- Evidence that such person is authorized to receive distribution of the deceased Class Member’s settlement payment and the name and, if applicable, the percentage of distribution each person is entitled to receive;
- Social Security Number of each person entitled to receive payment;
- Current mailing address of each person entitled to receive payment; and
- Person(s) to whom check(s) should be made payable, and amount(s) of check(s).

Reminder – Timing of Distributions

As indicated in the Notice, if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, which provides relief in exchange for a release of claims in connection with the Recordkeeping Claim advanced in this litigation, the Net Settlement Amount will be placed in an escrow account pending resolution of the Investment Claim and distribution of the Net Settlement Amount will occur *after* a resolution of the Investment Claim, which Plaintiff intends to appeal on behalf of the Plan. This timing will reduce the Administrative Expenses associated with distribution of the Net Settlement Amount and any further amount recovered in connection with the Investment Claim, ensuring the greatest amount possible is available for distribution to members of the Settlement Class.

EXHIBIT B

PLAN OF ALLOCATION

- 1.1 Each capitalized term below has the definition provided in the Settlement Agreement.
- 1.2 After the Settlement Effective Date, the Settlement Administrator shall cause the Net Settlement Amount to be allocated and distributed to the Plan for payments to the accounts of Current Participants as set forth in Paragraph 1.6 below, and to Former Participants as set forth in Paragraph 1.7 below, both in accordance with the Plan of Allocation set forth herein and as ordered by the Court.
- 1.3 To be eligible for a payment from the Net Settlement Amount, a person must be a Current Participant, Former Participant, Beneficiary, or Alternate Payee. Current Participants, as well as Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees with Active Accounts, shall receive their settlement payments as additions to their Active Accounts, as provided for in Paragraph 1.6 below. Former Participants, as well as Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who do not have Active Accounts, shall receive their settlement payments in the form of rollovers to an individual retirement account or other eligible employer plan or in the form of checks, as provided in Paragraph 1.7 below.
- 1.4 Beneficiaries will receive settlement payments, as described in this Plan of Allocation, in amounts corresponding to their entitlement as Beneficiaries of the Current Participant or of the Former Participant with respect to which the payment is made. This includes settlement payments to Beneficiaries based upon the Current Participant's or Former Participant's Plan account(s) during the Class Period and/or by the Beneficiary's own Plan account(s) during the Class Period, if an account was created in the Plan for the Beneficiary. Alternate Payees will receive settlement payments if and to the extent they are entitled to receive a portion of a Current Participant's or Former Participant's allocation under this Plan of Allocation pursuant to the terms of the applicable QDRO, including Alternate Payees for whom an account was created in the Plan. Beneficiaries and Alternate Payees with Active Accounts will receive payments by the method described in this Plan of Allocation for Current Participants. Beneficiaries and Alternate Payees who do not have Active Accounts will receive payments by the method described in this Plan of Allocation for Former Participants. The Settlement Administrator shall have sole and final discretion to determine the amounts to be paid to Beneficiaries and Alternate Payees in accordance with the Plan of Allocation set forth herein and as ordered by the Court.
- 1.5 **Calculation of Settlement Payments.** Payments to Current Participants, Former Participants, Beneficiaries, or Alternate Payees, shall be calculated by the Settlement Administrator pursuant to the Plan of Allocation as follows:

1.5.1 The Settlement Administrator shall determine a "Settlement Allocation Score" for each Current Participant, Former Participant, Beneficiary, or Alternate Payee by: (i) determining the year-end account balances of each Current Participant and Former Participant during the Class Period, or, if a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee had a separate account in the Plan during the Class Period, by determining the year-end

balance of each such Beneficiary or Alternate Payee; and (ii) dividing the sum of each Current Participant's or Former Participant's, or, to the extent applicable, each Beneficiary's or Alternate Payee's, year-end account balances during the Class Period by the total sum of year-end asset amounts in the Plan during the Class Period. The Settlement Allocation Score shall be used to calculate the *pro rata* settlement payment to each Current Participant, Former Participant, Beneficiary, or Alternate Payee.

1.5.2 If the dollar amount of the settlement payment to a Former Participant, or a Beneficiary or Alternate Payee who does not have an Active Account, is initially calculated by the Settlement Administrator to be \$5.00 or less, then that person's payment shall be \$5.00. All such amounts shall be retained in the Settlement Fund for distribution under Paragraph 1.13.

1.5.3 The Plan's Recordkeeper (or designees) shall provide the necessary data subject to its control as may be reasonably available and necessary to enable the Settlement Administrator to perform the above calculations.

1.5.4 The Settlement Administrator shall utilize the calculations required to be performed herein for: (a) making the required payments to Former Participants, and to Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who do not have Active Accounts, under Paragraph 1.7 of this Plan of Allocation; and (b) instructing the Plan as to the amount of the Net Settlement Amount to be allocated to Current Participants, and to Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who have Active Accounts, under Paragraph 1.6 of this Plan of Allocation and calculating the total amount to deposit into each of their Active Account(s) to fulfill this instruction.

1.5.5 The total amount of all rollovers or checks to be paid by the Settlement Administrator for Former Participants, and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who do not have Active Accounts, plus the total amount of all allocations that the Plan are instructed to make to Current Participants, and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who have Active Accounts, may not exceed the Net Settlement Amount. Nothing in this Paragraph 1.5 is intended to modify the requirements of Paragraph 1.8 below. In the event that the Settlement Administrator determines that the Plan of Allocation total would otherwise exceed the Net Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator is authorized and required to make such *pro rata* changes as are necessary to the Plan of Allocation such that said total does not exceed the Net Settlement Amount.

1.6 Payments to Current Participants and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees with Active Accounts. Current Participants, and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who have Active Accounts, will not be required to submit a Former Participant Claim Form to receive a settlement payment.

1.6.1 Within a reasonable time after the Settlement Administrator has completed all payment calculations for all participants, and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who have Active Accounts, the Settlement Administrator will provide the Plan's Recordkeeper, in a format and via a delivery method mutually agreed upon by the Settlement Administrator and the Plan's Recordkeeper, with an Excel spreadsheet containing the name, Social Security number (or alternative identifier(s) mutually acceptable), and amount of the settlement payment to be made into the Active Account(s) for each of these persons. In the event the Excel spreadsheet includes Social Security numbers, the Settlement Administrator will transmit the spreadsheet in a manner to protect the confidentiality of any such Social Security numbers.

1.6.2 Thereafter, within ten (10) business days' written notice to the Plan and the Plan's Recordkeeper, the Settlement Administrator shall effect a transfer from the Settlement Fund to the trust for the Plan of the aggregate amount of all settlement payments payable to Current Participants, and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who have Active Accounts, as reflected in the spreadsheet provided by the Settlement Administrator. Defendants (or their designee) shall direct the Plan's Recordkeeper to credit the individual Active Account(s) of each such person in the amount stated on the spreadsheet provided by the Settlement Administrator in relation to each such person.

1.6.3 The settlement payment for each Current Participant who is an active participant in the Plan (*i.e.*, has the right to make contributions to the Plan), will be invested in accordance with and proportionate to such participant's investment elections then on file for new contributions. If the Current Participant is no longer an active participant in the Plan, or does not have an investment election on file, then such participant shall be deemed to have directed such payment to be invested in the Plan's default investment option. Likewise, the settlement payment to each Beneficiary or Alternate Payee who has an Active Account will be invested in accordance with and proportionate to such person's investment elections then on file, or if such a person does not have investment elections on file, then such persons will be deemed to have directed such payments to be invested in the Plan's default investment option.

1.6.4 The Plan's Recordkeeper shall process all settlement payments to Current Participants, and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees who have Active Accounts, as soon as administratively feasible after the Plan receives the payment from the Settlement Fund and the Excel spreadsheet containing the agreed-upon information.

1.6.5 The Plan may be amended, to the extent necessary, to reflect the settlement allocation to Active Account(s) in accordance with this Plan of

Allocation.

1.6.6 If, as of the date when payments pursuant to this Settlement Agreement are made, a Current Participant, or Beneficiary or Alternate Payee who had an Active Account when the Settlement Administrator provided the information described in Section 1.6.1, no longer has an Active Account, he, she, or they will be treated as a Former Participant for purposes of the settlement distribution only and will receive his, her, or their payment from the Settlement Administrator in the form of a check or rollover as described in Paragraph 1.7. A Current Participant, or Beneficiary or Alternate Payee who had an Active Account when the Settlement Administrator provided the information described in Section 1.6.1, who no longer has an Active Account on the date of his, her, or their settlement distribution need not complete a Former Participant Claim Form.

1.7 Payments to Former Participants and Beneficiaries or Alternate Payees without Active Accounts. Each Former Participant and Beneficiary or Alternate Payee who does not have an Active Account will have the opportunity to elect a rollover of his, her, or their settlement payment to an individual retirement account or other eligible employer plan, which he, she, or they have identified on the Former Participant Claim Form, provided that such a person supplies adequate information to the Settlement Administrator to effect the rollover. Otherwise, the Former Participant, or Beneficiary or Alternate Payee without an Active Account, will receive his, her, or their settlement payment directly by check. The distributions shall be issued as follows:

1.7.1 The Settlement Administrator will either effect from the Settlement Fund the rollover the Former Participant or Beneficiary or Alternate Payee without an Active Account elected in the Former Participant Claim Form (if the conditions for such rollover are satisfied) and any associated paperwork necessary to effect the settlement distribution by rollover, or issue a check from the Settlement Fund to the Former Participant or Beneficiary or Alternate Payee without an Active Account and mail the check to the address of such person listed in his, her, or their Former Participant Claim Form, or, in the case of ambiguity or uncertainty, to the address of such person as determined by the Settlement Administrator using commercially reasonable means.

1.7.2 With respect to settlement payments that are not rolled over, the Settlement Administrator shall: (i) calculate and withhold any applicable taxes associated with the payments allocable to the Former Participant or Beneficiary or Alternate Payee without an Active Account; (ii) report such payments and remit such tax withholdings to the Internal Revenue Service and applicable state revenue agents; and (iii) issue appropriate tax forms to these persons.

1.8 This Plan of Allocation is based upon preliminary data regarding the Class Members who

may be entitled to settlement payments. If the Settlement Administrator concludes that it is impracticable to implement any provision of this Plan of Allocation, the Settling Parties agree to promptly discuss modifications to the terms of this Plan of Allocation and present such modified terms to the Court for its approval. Direct mailed notice to Class Members of such proposed modification of the Plan of Allocation shall not be required. However, notice of such proposed modification shall be posted by the Settlement Administrator on the Settlement Website.

- 1.9** The Settlement Administrator shall be solely responsible for performing any calculations required by this Plan of Allocation.
- 1.10** Within twenty (20) business days of completing all aspects of this Plan of Allocation, the Settlement Administrator shall send to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel one or more affidavits stating the following: (a) the name of each Class Member to whom the Settlement Administrator sent the Settlement Notice and/or the Former Participant Claim Form, and the address of such mailing; (b) the date(s) upon which the Settlement Administrator sent the Settlement Notice and/or the Former Participant Claim Form; (c) the name of each Class Member whose Settlement Notice and/or Former Participant Claim Form was returned as undeliverable; (d) the efforts made by the Settlement Administrator to find the correct address and to deliver the Settlement Notice and/or Former Participant Claim Form for each such Class Member; and (e) the name of each Class Member to whom the Settlement Administrator made a payment from the Net Settlement Amount, together with the amount and form of the payment, the name of the payee, the date of payment, the amount of tax withholdings, if applicable, and the date of remittance of tax withholdings to the appropriate tax authority, if applicable.
- 1.11** The Parties acknowledge that any payments to Class Members or their attorneys may be subject to applicable tax laws. Defendants and Defense Counsel will provide no tax advice to the Class Members and make no representation regarding the tax consequences of any of the settlement payments described in the Settlement Agreement. To the extent that any portion of any settlement payment is subject to income or other tax, the recipient of the payment shall be responsible for payment of such tax. Deductions will be made, and reporting will be performed by the Settlement Administrator, as required by law in respect of all payments made under the Settlement Agreement. Payments from the Settlement Fund shall not be treated as wages by the Parties.
- 1.12** Each Class Member who receives a payment under the Settlement Agreement shall be fully and ultimately responsible for payment of any and all federal, state, or local taxes resulting from or attributable to the payment received by such person. Each Class Member shall hold Defendants, the Released Parties, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator harmless from any tax liability, including penalties and interest, related in any way to payments under the Settlement Agreement, and shall hold Defendants, the Released Parties, Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator harmless from the costs (including, for example, attorneys' fees and disbursements) of any proceedings (including, for example, investigation and suit), related to such tax liability.

- 1.13** All checks issued pursuant to this Plan of Allocation shall expire one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after their issue date. All checks that are undelivered or are not cashed before their expiration date shall return to the Settlement Fund.
- 1.14** No sooner than three hundred ninety-five (395) calendar days following the Settlement Effective Date, any Net Settlement Amount remaining in the Settlement Fund after payments, including costs and taxes, shall be paid to the Plan for the benefit of the Plan's participants, and not to be used to defray any expenses that would otherwise be paid by Defendants or to defray Defendants' fees and costs in connection with the Class Action.
- 1.15** The Parties agree that this Plan of Allocation is intended to effectuate the distribution of payments under the Settlement, which pertains to the Recordkeeping Claim. Nonetheless, the Parties intend for the amounts in the Qualified Settlement Fund to be held in escrow pending resolution of the Investment Claim so that any additional funds recovered may be distributed at the same time as the funds under this Plan of Allocation. Accordingly, the Parties intend for the Settlement Administrator to carry out this Plan of Allocation after the Investment Claim is resolved.

EXHIBIT C

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 NORMA VALENZUELA, individually
11 and as a representative of a class of
12 similarly situated persons, on behalf of
13 the ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS
14 PLAN,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 ADVANTAGE SALES &
18 MARKETING LLC; THE BOARD OF
19 DIRECTORS OF ADVANTAGE
20 SALES & MARKETING LLC; THE
21 ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS
22 PLAN ADMINISTRATIVE
23 COMMITTEE; and DOES No. 1-20,
24 Whose Names are Currently Unknown,

25 Defendants.
26
27
28

Case No. 8:24-CV-00460-AB-KES

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT,
PRELIMINARILY CERTIFYING
CLASS FOR SETTLEMENT
PURPOSES, APPROVING FORM
AND MANNER OF SETTLEMENT
NOTICE, PRELIMINARILY
APPROVING PLAN OF
ALLOCATION, AND
SCHEDULING FAIRNESS
HEARING**

Judge: Hon. André Birotte Jr.

Action Filed: March 4, 2024

1 This Class Action involves claims for alleged violations of the Employee Retirement
2 Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), 29 U.S.C. § 1001, *et seq.*, with respect to the
3 Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan (“Plan”).¹ The terms of the Settlement are set out in the
4 Settlement Agreement, fully executed as of September 2, 2025, by counsel on behalf of the
5 Class Representative and all Class Members, and Defendants, respectively. Defendants
6 deny the allegations, claims, and contentions of the Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s Complaint,
7 deny any and all alleged wrongdoing and liability, and deny that the Plaintiff, all Settlement
8 Class Members, or the Plan have suffered any harm or damage for which Defendants could
9 be held liable.

10 Pursuant to Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement,
11 Preliminary Certification of a Class for Settlement Purposes, Approval of Form and
12 Manner of Settlement Notice, Preliminary Approval of Plan of Allocation, and Scheduling
13 of a Date for a Fairness Hearing filed on August September 2, 2025, the Court preliminarily
14 considered the Settlement to determine, among other things, whether the Settlement is
15 sufficient to warrant the issuance of notice to members of the proposed Settlement Class.
16 Upon reviewing the Settlement Agreement, and the matter having come before the Court
17 on _____, 2025, due notice having been given and the Court having been
18 fully advised in the premises, it is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** as
19 follows:

20 1. Preliminary Certification of the Settlement Class. In accordance with the
21 Settlement Agreement, and pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil
22 Procedure, this Court hereby conditionally certifies the following class (“Settlement
23 Class”) for purposes of settling and resolving the Recordkeeping Claim only (as defined
24 below):

25 All persons who participated in the Plan at any time during the Class Period,
26 including any Beneficiary of a deceased Person who participated in the Plan
27 _____

28 ¹ All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Preliminary Approval Order shall have
the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

1 at any time during the Class Period, and any Alternate Payee of a Person
2 subject to a QDRO who participated in the Plan at any time during the Class
3 Period. Excluded from the Settlement Class are Defendants, including the
individual members of the Committee and their beneficiaries.

4 2. The Court finds for the purpose of settling and resolving the Recordkeeping
5 Claim only:

6 a) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1), the Settlement Class is
7 ascertainable from records kept with respect to the Plan and from other objective
8 criteria, and the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is
9 impracticable;

10 b) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2), there are one or more questions
11 of law and/or fact common to the Settlement Class;

12 c) as required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3), the claims of the Class
13 Representative are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class that the Class
14 Representative seeks to certify;

15 d) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4), the Class Representative will
16 fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class in that: (i) the
17 interests of the Class Representative and the nature of the alleged claims are
18 consistent with those of the Settlement Class members; and (ii) there appear to be
19 no conflicts between or among the Class Representative and the Settlement Class;

20 e) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1), the prosecution of separate
21 actions by individual members of the Settlement Class would create a risk of: (i)
22 inconsistent or varying adjudications as to individual Settlement Class members that
23 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
24 claims asserted in the Class Action; or (ii) adjudications as to individual Settlement
25 Class members that, as a practical matter, would be dispositive of the interests of the
26
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1 other members not parties to the individual adjudications, or substantially impair or
2 impede the ability of such persons to protect their interests; and

3 f) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g), Class Counsel are capable of fairly
4 and adequately representing the interests of the Settlement Class, and Class Counsel:
5 (i) have done appropriate work identifying or investigating potential claims in the
6 Class Action; (ii) are experienced in handling class actions; and (iii) have committed
7 the necessary resources to represent the Settlement Class.

8 3. The Court preliminarily appoints Norma Valenzuela as Class Representative
9 for the Settlement Class and Miller Shah LLP as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.

10 4. **Preliminary Approval of Proposed Settlement.** The Settlement
11 Agreement is hereby preliminarily approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. This Court
12 preliminarily finds that:

13 a) The Settlement resolves Plaintiff's claims that Defendants breached
14 their fiduciary duties under ERISA by causing the Plan to pay excessive
15 recordkeeping and administrative fees (the "Recordkeeping Claim") and preserves
16 the Settling Parties' rights and positions with respect to the continued litigation of
17 Plaintiff's claim that Defendants failed to appropriately monitor the Plan's
18 investments and retained Franklin Growth Fund Class R6 in the Plan (the
19 "Investment Claim");

20 b) The Settlement was negotiated vigorously and at arm's-length by
21 Defense Counsel, on the one hand, and by Class Counsel on behalf of the Class
22 Representative and the Settlement Class, on the other hand;

23 c) The Class Representative and Class Counsel had sufficient information
24 to evaluate the settlement value of the Class Action and have concluded that the
25 Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate;

26 d) If the Settlement had not been achieved, the Class Representative and
27 the Settlement Class faced the expense, risk, and uncertainty of protracted litigation;
28

1 e) The amount of monetary relief provided by the Settlement—one-
2 hundred-twenty-five-thousand dollars (\$125,000.00)—and non-monetary relief
3 provided under the Settlement is, collectively, fair, reasonable, and adequate,
4 considering the costs, risks, and delay of litigation, trial, and appeal associated with
5 the Recordkeeping Claim. The fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the
6 Settlement is also supported by the fact that the Settlement preserves Plaintiff’s right
7 to continue litigating the Investment Claim. The method of distributing the Net
8 Settlement Amount is efficient, relying on Defendants’ records, requiring no filing
9 of claims for Current Participants, Beneficiaries, and Alternate Payees with Active
10 Accounts, and requiring only a modest Former Participant Claim Form for Former
11 Participants, Beneficiaries, and Alternate Payees without Active Accounts. The
12 Settlement terms related to litigation expenses do not raise any questions concerning
13 fairness of the Settlement, and there are no agreements, apart from the Settlement,
14 required to be considered under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2)(C)(iv). The Gross
15 Settlement Amount is within the range of settlement values obtained in similar cases;

16 f) At all times, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have acted independently of
17 Defendants and in the interest of the Settlement Class; and

18 g) The proposed Plan of Allocation is fair, reasonable, and adequate.

19 **5. Establishment of Qualified Settlement Fund.** A common fund is agreed to
20 by the Settling Parties in the Settlement Agreement and is hereby established and shall be
21 known as the “Qualified Settlement Fund.” The Settlement Fund shall be a “qualified
22 settlement fund” within the meaning of Treasury Regulations § 1.468-1(a) promulgated
23 under Section 468B of the Internal Revenue Code.

24 a) The Qualified Settlement Fund shall be funded and administered in
25 accordance with terms of the Settlement Agreement.²

26
27 ² Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Administrator shall maintain the
28 Qualified Settlement Fund as an escrow account pending resolution of the Investment
 Claim and cause the Qualified Settlement Fund to be invested in appropriate securities

1 b) Defendants shall have no withholding, reporting or tax reporting
2 responsibilities regarding the Qualified Settlement Fund or its distribution, except as
3 otherwise specifically identified in the Settlement Agreement. Moreover,
4 Defendants shall have no liability, obligation, or responsibility for administration of
5 the Settlement Fund or the disbursement of any monies from the Qualified
6 Settlement Fund except for: (1) their obligation to cause the Gross Settlement
7 Amount to be paid; and (2) their agreement to cooperate in providing the information
8 necessary for settlement administration as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

9 c) The Gross Settlement Amount caused to be paid by the Defendants
10 and/or their insurer(s) into the Settlement Fund in accordance with the Settlement
11 Agreement, and all income generated by that amount, shall be in custodia legis and
12 immune from attachment, execution, assignment, hypothecation, transfer, or similar
13 process by any person. Once the Settlement Fund vests, it is irrevocable during its
14 term and Defendants have divested themselves of all right, title, or interest, whether
15 legal or equitable, in the Settlement Fund, if any; provided, however, in the event
16 the Settlement Agreement is not approved by the Court or the Settlement set forth in
17 the Settlement Agreement is terminated or fails to become effective in accordance
18 with its terms (or, if following approval by this Court, such approval is reversed or
19 modified), the Settling Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in this
20 Action as of June 22, 2025, the day before the Settling Parties reached an agreement
21 in principle to settle the Recordkeeping Claim only; the terms and provisions of the
22 Settlement Agreement and this Order shall be void and have no force and effect and
23 shall not be used in this case or in any proceeding for any purpose; and the Settlement
24 Fund and income earned thereon shall immediately be returned to the entity(ies) that
25 funded the Settlement Fund.

26 _____
27 consistent with the Settlement Agreement. This shall not prevent the Settlement
28 Administrator from making disbursements from the Qualified Settlement Fund for
approved purposes before the resolution of the Investment Claim.

1 d) The Settlement Administrator may make disbursements out of the
2 Qualified Settlement Fund only in accordance with this Preliminary Approval Order
3 or any additional Orders issued by the Court.

4 e) The Qualified Settlement Fund shall expire after the Settlement
5 Administrator distributes all of the assets of the Qualified Settlement Fund in
6 accordance with the Settlement Agreement; provided, however, that the Qualified
7 Settlement Fund shall not terminate until its liability for any and all government fees,
8 fines, taxes, charges and excises of any kind, including income taxes, and any
9 interest, penalties or additions to such amounts, are, in the Settlement
10 Administrator's sole discretion, finally determined and all such amounts have been
11 paid by the Qualified Settlement Fund.

12 f) The Court and the Settlement Administrator recognize that there will
13 be tax payments, withholding, and reporting requirements in connection with the
14 administration of the Qualified Settlement Fund. The Settlement Administrator
15 shall, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, determine, withhold, and pay
16 over to the appropriate taxing authorities any taxes due with respect to any
17 distribution from the Qualified Settlement Fund and shall make and file with the
18 appropriate taxing authorities any reports or returns due with respect to any
19 distributions from the Qualified Settlement Fund. The Settlement Administrator
20 also shall determine and pay any income taxes owing with respect to the income
21 earned by the Qualified Settlement Fund. Additionally, the Settlement
22 Administrator shall file returns and reports with the appropriate taxing authorities
23 with respect to the payment and withholding of taxes.

24 g) The Settlement Administrator, in its discretion, may request expedited
25 review and decision by the IRS or the applicable state or local taxing authorities,
26 with regard to the correctness of the returns filed for the Qualified Settlement Fund
27 and shall establish reserves to assure the availability of sufficient funds to meet the
28 obligations of the Qualified Settlement Fund itself and the Settlement Administrator

as fiduciaries of the Qualified Settlement Fund. Reserves may be established for taxes on the Qualified Settlement Fund income or on distributions.

h) The Settlement Administrator shall have all the necessary powers, and take all necessary ministerial steps, to effectuate the terms of the Settlement Agreement, including the payment of all distributions. Such powers include investing, allocating, and distributing the Qualified Settlement Fund and supervising the administration of the Settlement Agreement in accordance with its terms and this Order.

i) The Settlement Administrator shall keep detailed and accurate accounts of all investments, receipts, disbursements, and other transactions of the Qualified Settlement Fund. All accounts, books, and records relating to the Qualified Settlement Fund shall be open for reasonable inspection by such persons or entities as the Court orders. Included in the Settlement Administrator's records shall be complete information regarding actions taken with respect to the award of any payments to any person, the nature and status of any payment from the Qualified Settlement Fund and other information which the Settlement Administrator considers relevant to showing that the Qualified Settlement Fund is being administered, and awards are being made, in accordance with the purposes of the Settlement Agreement, this Preliminary Approval Order, and any future orders that the Court may find it necessary to issue.

6. Fairness Hearing. A hearing is scheduled for _____ (at least 140 calendar days after preliminary approval) to make a final determination concerning, among other things:

a) Any objections from Class Members to the Settlement or any aspects of it;

b) Whether the Settlement merits final approval as fair, reasonable, and adequate;

1 c) Whether the Class Action should be dismissed with prejudice pursuant
2 to the terms of the Settlement;

3 d) Whether Class Counsel adequately represented the Settlement Class for
4 purposes of entering into and implementing the Settlement;

5 e) Whether the proposed Plan of Allocation should be granted final
6 approval; and

7 f) Whether Class Counsel's application(s) for Attorneys' Fees and Costs
8 and a Case Contribution Award to the Class Representative are fair and reasonable
9 and should be approved.

10 7. **Settlement Notice.** The Court approves the form of Settlement Notice
11 attached as Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement. The Parties may make non-substantive
12 changes to the Settlement Notice, such as filling in the applicable dates and correcting
13 typographical errors. The Court finds that such form of notice fairly and adequately:

14 a) describes the terms and effects of the Settlement Agreement, the
15 Settlement, and the Plan of Allocation;

16 b) notifies Former Participants, Beneficiaries, and Alternate Payees
17 without Active Accounts of how to submit a claim;

18 c) notifies the Settlement Class that Class Counsel will seek payment of
19 attorneys' fees not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement amount, as well as
20 the costs of administering the Settlement out of the Gross Settlement Fund and a
21 Case Contribution Award for the Class Representative for her service in such
22 capacity, and that Class Counsel will not separately seek litigation costs and
23 expenses in connection with the prosecution of the Recordkeeping Claim from the
24 Gross Settlement Fund;

25 d) gives notice to the Settlement Class of the time and place of the Fairness
26 Hearing; and

27 e) describes how the recipients of the Settlement Notice may object to any
28 of the relief requested.

1 **8. Settlement Administrator.** The Court hereby approves the appointment of
2 Strategic Claims Services as the Settlement Administrator for the Settlement. The
3 Settlement Administrator shall use the data provided by Defendants and the recordkeeper
4 for the Plan, or their designee, solely for the purpose of meeting its obligations as
5 Settlement Administrator, and for no other purpose. Among other responsibilities as set
6 forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Court directs that the Settlement Administrator
7 shall:

8 a) By no later than _____, 2025 (30 calendar days after
9 entry of this Preliminary Approval Order), cause the Settlement Notice and Former
10 Participant Claim Form, with such non-substantive modifications thereto as may be
11 agreed upon by the Parties, to be provided by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the
12 last known address of each member of the Settlement Class who can be identified
13 through reasonable effort. The Settlement Administrator shall use commercially
14 reasonable efforts to locate any Class Member whose Settlement Notice and Former
15 Participant Claim Form is returned and re-send such documents one additional time.

16 b) By no later than _____, 2025 (30 calendar days after
17 entry of this Preliminary Approval Order), cause the Settlement Notice to be
18 published on the Settlement Website identified in the Settlement Notice, which will
19 also host and make available copies of all Settlement-related documents, including
20 the Settlement Agreement.

21 The Court finds that the contents of the Settlement Notice and the process described
22 herein and in the Settlement are the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and
23 satisfy the requirements of Rule 23(c) and Due Process.

24 This Order will bind any successor Settlement Administrator. The successor
25 Settlement Administrator(s) shall have, without further act on the part of anyone, all the
26 duties, powers, functions, immunities, and discretion granted to the original Settlement
27 Administrator. Any Settlement Administrator(s) who is replaced (by reason other than
28 death) shall execute all instruments, and do all acts, that may be necessary or that may be

ordered or requested in writing by the Court or by any successor Settlement Administrator(s), to transfer administrative powers over the Settlement Fund to the successor Settlement Administrator(s). The appointment of a successor Settlement Administrator(s), if any, shall not under any circumstances require Defendants to make any further payment of any nature into the Settlement Fund or otherwise.

9. Petition for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Case Contribution Award.

Any petition by Class Counsel for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and a Case Contribution Awards to the Class Representative, and all briefs in support thereof, shall be filed no later than _____ (45 calendar days before the date of the Fairness Hearing specified in this Preliminary Approval Order).

10. Briefs in Support of Final Approval of the Settlement. Briefs and other documents in support of final approval of the Settlement shall be filed no later than _____ (45 calendar days before the date of the Fairness Hearing specified in this Preliminary Approval Order).

11. Objections to Settlement. Any member of the Settlement Class or authorized recipient of any CAFA Notice may file an objection to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, to any term of the Settlement Agreement, to the Plan of Allocation, to the proposed award of attorneys' fees and litigation costs, to the payment of costs of administering the Settlement out of the Qualified Settlement Fund, or to the request for a Case Contribution Award for the Class Representative. An objector must file with the Court a statement of his, her, their, or its objection(s), specifying the reason(s), if any, for each such objection made, including any legal support and/or evidence that the objector wishes to bring to the Court's attention or introduce in support of the objection(s). The address for filing objections with the Court is as follows:

Clerk of Court
United States District Court for the Central District of California
350 W 1st Street, Suite 4311
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4565

1 Re: *Valenzuela v. Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC*, Case No. 8:24-CV-00460-
2 AB-KES

3 12. The objector or his, her, their, or its counsel (if any) must file the objection(s)
4 and supporting materials with the Court and provide a copy of the objection(s) and
5 supporting materials to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel at the addresses in the
6 Settlement Notice no later than _____ (30 calendar days before the
7 date of the Fairness Hearing specified in this Order). If an objector hires an attorney to
8 represent him, her, them, or it for the purposes of making an objection pursuant to this
9 Paragraph, the attorney must also file a notice of appearance with the Court no later than
10 _____ (30 calendar days before the date of the Fairness Hearing specified in
11 this Preliminary Approval Order). Any member of the Settlement Class or other Person
12 who does not timely file a written objection complying with the terms of this Paragraph
13 shall be deemed to have waived, and shall be foreclosed from raising, any objection to the
14 Settlement, and any untimely objection shall be barred. Any responses to objections shall
15 be filed with the Court no later than _____ (seven calendar days before the
16 date of the Fairness Hearing specified in this Preliminary Approval Order). There shall be
17 no reply briefs. The Settling Parties may, but are not required to, serve discovery requests,
18 including requests for documents and notice of deposition not to exceed two (2) hours in
19 length, on any objector within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the objection and that
20 any responses to discovery or depositions must be completed within ten (10) calendar days
21 of the discovery request being served on the objector.

22 13. Any additional briefs the Settling Parties may wish to file in support of the
23 Settlement shall be filed no later than _____ (seven calendar days before the
24 date of the Fairness Hearing specified in this Preliminary Approval Order).

25 14. **Participation in Final Approval Hearing.** Any objector who files a timely,
26 written objection in accordance with Paragraph 11 above may also participate in the
27 Fairness Hearing either in person or through qualified counsel retained at the objector's
28 expense. Objectors or their attorneys intending to participate in the Fairness Hearing must

1 file a notice of intention to participate (and, if applicable, the name, address, and telephone
2 number of the objector's attorney) with the Court by no later than _____
3 (15 calendar days before the date of Fairness Hearing specified in this Preliminary
4 Approval Order). Any objectors, or their counsel, who do not timely file a notice of
5 intention to participate in accordance with this Paragraph shall not be permitted to speak at
6 the Fairness Hearing, except for good cause shown.

7 **15. Notice Expenses.** The expenses of printing, mailing, and publishing the
8 Settlement Notice required herein shall be paid exclusively from the Qualified Settlement
9 Fund.

10 **16. Parallel Proceedings.** Pending final determination of whether the Settlement
11 Agreement should be approved, the Class Representative, every Class Member, and the
12 Plan are prohibited and enjoined from directly, through representatives, or in any other
13 capacity commencing any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal asserting any of the
14 Released Claims against the Released Parties, including Defendants.

15 **17. Class Action Fairness Act Notice.** The form of notice under the Class Action
16 Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA") submitted as Exhibit E to the Settlement Agreement
17 complies with the requirements of CAFA and will, upon mailing, discharge Defendants'
18 obligations pursuant to CAFA. Defendants may make non-substantive and other
19 immaterial changes to the CAFA Notice, such as filling in the applicable dates and other
20 information, as well as correcting typographical errors.

21 **18. Continuance of Final Approval Hearing.** The Court reserves the right to
22 continue the Fairness Hearing without further written notice to the Class Members and also
23 may schedule the hearing to be done by telephone or video conference.

24 **19. Effect of Termination of Settlement on this Order.** If the Settlement is
25 terminated in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, this Order shall become null and
26 void, and shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Settling Parties, all of whom shall
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28

be restored to their respective positions existing as of June 22, 2025, the day before the Parties reached an agreement in principle to settle the Recordkeeping Claim.

20. This Order shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Defendants of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, or liability, or a waiver of any claims or defenses, including but not limited to those as to the propriety of any amended pleadings or the propriety and scope of class certification. This Order shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Plaintiff, the Class Representative, or the Settlement Class that their claims lack merit, or that the relief requested by Plaintiff is inappropriate, improper, or unavailable. This Order shall not be construed or used as a waiver by any party of any arguments, defenses, or claims the party may have, including but not limited to any objections by Defendants to class certification in the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated.

SO ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Hon. André Birotte Jr.
United States District Judge

EXHIBIT D

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

NORMA VALENZUELA, individually
and as a representative of a class of
similarly situated persons, on behalf of
the ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS
PLAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

ADVANTAGE SALES &
MARKETING LLC; THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF ADVANTAGE
SALES & MARKETING LLC; THE
ADVANTAGE 401(k) SAVINGS
PLAN ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE; and DOES No. 1-20,
Whose Names are Currently Unknown,

Defendants.

Case No. 8:24-CV-00460-AB-KES

**[PROPOSED] FINAL APPROVAL
ORDER AND JUDGMENT AS TO
THE RECORDKEEPING CLAIM**

Judge: Hon. André Birotte Jr.

Action Filed: March 4, 2024

1 This Class Action came before the Court for hearing on _____, 202__
2 to determine the fairness of the proposed Settlement presented to the Court under the
3 terms of a Settlement Agreement executed on _____, 2025 (ECF No.
4 ____), and the subject of this Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class
5 Action Settlement, Preliminarily Certifying a Class for Settlement Purposes, Approval of
6 Form and Manner of Settlement Notice, Preliminary Approval of Plan of Allocation, and
7 Scheduling of Date for a Fairness Hearing. Due notice having been given and the Court
8 having been fully advised in the premises, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED,**
9 **AND DECREED:**

10 1. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action and over all
11 Parties, including all members of the Settlement Class.

12 2. For the purpose of settling and resolving the Recordkeeping Claim,¹ the
13 Court certifies the Settlement Class pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(1) of the Federal
14 Rules of Civil Procedure. The Settlement Class is defined as:

15 All persons who participated in the Plan at any time during the Class Period,
16 including any Beneficiary of a deceased Person who participated in the Plan
17 at any time during the Class Period, and any Alternate Payee of a Person
18 subject to a QDRO who participated in the Plan at any time during the Class
19 Period. Excluded from the Settlement Class are Defendants, including the
individual members of the Committee and their beneficiaries.

20 3. The Court finds for the purpose of settling and resolving the Recordkeeping
21 Claim:

22 a) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1), the Settlement Class is
23 ascertainable from records kept with respect to the Plan and from other objective
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28 ¹ All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Final Approval Order and Judgment
shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

1 criteria, and the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is
2 impracticable;

3 b) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2), there are one or more questions
4 of law and/or fact common to the Settlement Class;

5 c) as required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3), the claims of the Class
6 Representative are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class that the Class
7 Representative seeks to certify;

8 d) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4), the Class Representative will
9 fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class in that: (i) the
10 interests of the Class Representative and the nature of the alleged claims are
11 consistent with those of the Settlement Class members; and (ii) there appear to be
12 no conflicts between or among the Class Representative and the Settlement Class;

13 e) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1), the prosecution of separate
14 actions by individual members of the Settlement Class would create a risk of: (i)
15 inconsistent or varying adjudications as to individual Settlement Class members that
16 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the
17 claims asserted in the Class Action; or (ii) adjudications as to individual Settlement
18 Class members that, as a practical matter, would be dispositive of the interests of the
19 other members not parties to the individual adjudications, or substantially impair or
20 impede the ability of such persons to protect their interests; and

21 f) as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g), Class Counsel are capable of fairly
22 and adequately representing the interests of the Settlement Class, and Class Counsel:
23 (i) have done appropriate work identifying or investigating potential claims in the
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1 Class Action; (ii) are experienced in handling class actions; and (iii) have committed
2 the necessary resources to represent the Settlement Class.

3 4. The Court hereby appoints Norma Valenzuela as Class Representative for the
4 Settlement Class and Miller Shah LLP as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.

5 5. The Court hereby finds that the Settlement Class has received proper and
6 adequate notice of the Settlement, the Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel's application for
7 Litigation Expenses and a Case Contribution Award to the Class Representative, and the
8 Plan of Allocation, such notice having been given in accordance with the Preliminary
9 Approval Order. Such notice included individual notice to all members of the Settlement
10 Class who could be identified through reasonable efforts, as well as notice through the
11 dedicated Settlement Website on the internet, and provided valid, due, and sufficient notice
12 of these proceedings and of the matters set forth in this Order, and included sufficient
13 information regarding the claims procedure for Former Participants, Beneficiaries, and
14 Alternate Payees without Active Accounts and the procedure for the making of objections.
15 Such notice constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances and fully
16 satisfies the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the requirements of
17 due process.

18 6. The Court hereby approves the Settlement and hereby orders that the
19 Settlement shall be consummated and implemented in accordance with its terms and
20 conditions.

21 7. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, the Court finds that the
22 Settlement embodied in the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the
23 Plan and the Settlement Class, and more particularly finds that:

24 a. The Settlement resolves Plaintiff's claims that Defendants breached
25 their fiduciary duties under ERISA by causing the Plan to pay excessive
26 recordkeeping and administrative fees ("Recordkeeping Claim") and preserves
27 Plaintiff's right to continue litigating the claim that Defendants failed to
28

1 appropriately monitor the Plan's investments and caused the Plan to retain an
2 imprudent investment ("Investment Claim");

3 b. The Settlement was negotiated vigorously and at arm's length by
4 Defense Counsel on the one hand, and by Class Counsel on behalf of the Class
5 Representative and the Settlement Class on the other hand;

6 c. The Class Representative and Defendants had sufficient information to
7 evaluate the settlement value of the Action;

8 d. If the Settlement had not been achieved, the Class Representative and
9 the Settlement Class faced the expense, risk, and uncertainty of extended litigation
10 with respect to the Recordkeeping Claim;

11 e. The amount of the Settlement—one-hundred-twenty-five-thousand
12 dollars (\$125,000.00)—as well as the non-monetary relief obtained, collectively, is
13 fair, reasonable, and adequate, considering the costs, risks, and delay of trial and
14 appeal associated with the Recordkeeping Claim. The fairness, reasonableness, and
15 adequacy of the Settlement are also supported by the fact that the Settlement
16 preserves Plaintiff's right to continue litigating the Investment Claim. The method
17 of distributing the Net Settlement Fund is efficient and requires no filing of claims
18 for Participants, Beneficiaries, and Alternate Payees with Active Accounts, and
19 requires only a modest Former Participant Claim Form for Former Participants,
20 Beneficiaries, and Alternate Payees without Active Accounts. The Settlement terms
21 related to Attorneys' Fees and Costs and a case contribution award to the Class
22 Representative do not raise any questions concerning fairness of the Settlement, and
23 there are no agreements, apart from the Settlement, required to be considered under
24 FED. R. CIV. P. 23(e)(2)(C)(iv). The Settlement Amount is within the range of
25 settlement values obtained in similar cases;

26 f. At all times, the Class Representative and Class Counsel have acted
27 independently of Defendants and in the interest of the Settlement Class; and
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1 g. The Court has duly considered and overruled any filed objection(s) to
2 the Settlement to the extent there were any.

3 8. The Plan of Allocation is finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate.
4 The Settlement Administrator shall distribute the Net Settlement Amount in accordance
5 with the Plan of Allocation and the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator
6 shall have final authority to determine the share of the Net Settlement Amount to be
7 allocated to each Class Member in accordance with the Plan of Allocation approved by the
8 Court.

9 9. All requirements of the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1711, *et seq.*,
10 have been met.

11 10. The releases and covenants not to sue set forth in the Settlement Agreement,
12 including but not limited to Section 7 of the Settlement Agreement, together with the
13 definitions contained in the Settlement Agreement relating thereto, are expressly
14 incorporated herein in all respects. The releases are effective as of the date of this Order.
15 Accordingly, the Court orders that, as of the date of this Order, the Plan, the Class
16 Representative, and the Class Members (and their respective heirs, beneficiaries, executors,
17 administrators, fiduciaries, estates, past and present partners, officers, directors,
18 predecessors, successors, assigns, agents, and attorneys) hereby fully, finally, and forever
19 settle, release, relinquish, waive, and discharge all Released Parties from any and all
20 Released Claims, whether or not any Class Member may discover facts in addition to or
21 different from those which the Class Members or Class Counsel now know or believe to
22 be true with respect to the Action and the Released Claims; whether or not any Class
23 Member has executed and delivered a Former Participant Claim Form; whether or not any
24 Class Member receives a monetary benefit from the Settlement, actually received the
25 Settlement Notice, filed an objection to the Settlement or to any application by Class
26 Counsel for an award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses; and whether or not the objections
27 or claims for distribution of any Class Member have been approved or allowed.

28 11. The Class Representative, Class Members, and the Plan hereby settle, release,

1 relinquish, waive, and discharge any and all rights or benefits they may now have, or in the
2 future may have, under any law relating to the releases of Unknown Claims, including
3 Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides: “A general release does not
4 extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his
5 or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would
6 have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.” The Class
7 Representative, Class Members, and the Plan with respect to the Released Claims also
8 waive any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law or of any State or
9 territory within the United States or any foreign country, or any principle of common law,
10 which is similar, comparable, or equivalent in substance to Section 1542 of the California
11 Civil Code.

12 12. The Class Representative, the Class Members, and the Plan, acting
13 individually or together, or in combination with others, are hereby permanently and finally
14 barred and enjoined from suing or seeking to institute, maintain, prosecute, argue, or assert
15 in any action or proceeding (including but not limited to an IRS determination letter
16 proceeding, a Department of Labor proceeding, an arbitration, or a proceeding before any
17 state insurance or other department or commission), any cause of action, demand, or claim
18 on the basis of, connected with, or arising out of any of the Released Claims or Unknown
19 Claims.

20 13. Each Class Member hereby releases the Released Parties, Defense Counsel,
21 Class Counsel, and the Plan for any claims, liabilities, and attorneys’ fees and expenses
22 arising from the allocation of the Settlement Fund or Net Settlement Amount and for all
23 tax liability and associated penalties and interest as well as related attorneys’ fees and
24 expenses.

25 14. Class Counsel is awarded Attorneys’ Fees and Costs in the amount requested,
26 plus any applicable interest. Class Counsel has not sought and is not separately awarded
27 any litigation costs and expenses in connection with the prosecution of the Recordkeeping
28 Claim.

1 15. Class Representative is awarded \$5,000.00 as a case contribution award for
2 her representation of the Settlement Class.

3 16. The Court finds that the requested Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Class
4 Representative's award are fair and reasonable based on the efforts undertaken by Class
5 Counsel and the Class Representative on behalf of the Settlement Class.

6 17. The Recordkeeping Claim is hereby dismissed with prejudice and without
7 costs to any of the Parties and Released Parties other than as provided for in the Settlement
8 Agreement.

9 18. The Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any disputes or
10 challenges that may arise as to the performance of the Settlement Agreement or any
11 challenges as to the performance, validity, interpretation, administration, enforcement, or
12 enforceability of the Settlement Notice, Plan of Allocation, this Final Approval Order, the
13 Settlement Agreement, or the termination of the Settlement Agreement. The Court shall
14 also retain exclusive jurisdiction and rule by separate Order with respect to applications for
15 awards of Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Case Contribution Award to the Class
16 Representative.

17 19. Any motion to enforce this Final Approval Order or the Settlement
18 Agreement, including by way of injunction, may be filed in this Court, and the provisions
19 of the Settlement Agreement and/or this Final Approval Order may also be asserted by way
20 of an affirmative defense or counterclaim in response to any action that is asserted to violate
21 the Settlement Agreement.

22 20. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated, in accordance with
23 its terms, this Final Approval Order shall be rendered null and void, *ab initio*, and shall be
24 vacated *nunc pro tunc*, and the Action shall revert to its status as of the day immediately
25 before the day the Settlement was reached. The Settling Parties shall be afforded a
26 reasonable opportunity to negotiate a new case management schedule.

27 21. With respect to any matters that arise concerning the implementation of
28 distributions to Class Members who have an Active Account (after allocation decisions

1 have been made by the Settlement Administrator in its sole discretion), all questions not
2 resolved by the Settlement Agreement shall be resolved by the Plan administrator or other
3 fiduciaries of the Plan, in accordance with applicable law and the governing terms of the
4 Plan.

5 22. Within twenty (20) business days following the issuance of all settlement
6 payments to Class Members as provided by the Plan of Allocation approved by the Court,
7 the Settlement Administrator shall prepare and provide to Class Counsel and Defense
8 Counsel a list of each person who received a settlement payment or contribution from the
9 Settlement Fund and the amount of such payment or contribution, and any other
10 information as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

11 23. Upon entry of this Final Approval Order, all Parties, the Settlement Class, and
12 the Plan shall be bound by the Settlement Agreement and this Final Approval Order.

13 24. The Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement is hereby
14 **GRANTED**, the settlement of the Action is **APPROVED** as fair, reasonable and adequate
15 to the Plan and the Class, and the Parties are hereby directed to take the necessary steps to
16 effectuate the terms of the Settlement Agreement, other than steps associated with the
17 distribution of settlement payments to Class Members, which shall occur after a final
18 judgment is entered with respect to the Investment Claim.

19 25. The Court hereby enters judgment on the Recordkeeping Claim.
20 Notwithstanding the reservation of jurisdiction in Paragraph 18 of this Final Approval
21 Order, this is a final and appealable judgment that fully resolves the Recordkeeping Claim.
22 The Clerk is directed to enter this judgment in the civil docket forthwith.

23 **SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** this __ day of _____,
24 202__.

25
26 Hon. André Birotte Jr.
27 United States District Judge
28

EXHIBIT E

September , 2025

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

To: Federal and State Officials Identified on Attached Distribution List

Re: Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1715; *Valenzuela v. Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC*, Case No. 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES, U.S. District Court, Central District of California

Dear [Sir/Madam]:

Strategic Claims Services (“SCS”), an independent claims administrator, on behalf of Defendants Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC and Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan Administrative Committee, hereby provides this Notice of a Proposed Class Action Settlement in the above-referenced matter pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”).

In the above-captioned action, Plaintiff Norma Valenzuela alleges that Defendants breached their fiduciary duties under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), 29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq., in connection with the administration of the Advantage 401(k) Savings Plan. Plaintiff filed a motion with the United States District Court for the Central District of California on September 2, 2025, requesting preliminary approval of the proposed settlement.

In accordance with their obligations under CAFA, 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b), Defendants enclose the following:

(1) The Complaint, any materials filed with the Complaint, and any Amended Complaints.

Plaintiff’s operative Complaint, as filed in *Valenzuela v. Advantage Sales & Marketing LLC*, Case No. 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES, can be found on the enclosed CD as “Exhibit 1 – Complaint.”

(2) Notice of any scheduled judicial hearing in the class action.

The Court has not yet scheduled a hearing to consider preliminary approval of the settlement or a final fairness hearing regarding the settlement. If and when the Court schedules any such hearings, the dates of those hearings and other relevant information can be found via PACER as follows: (1) enter PACER through <https://ecf.cacd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>, (2) click on “Query,” (3) enter the civil case number, 8:24-cv-00460-AB-KES, (4) click on “Run Query,” and (5) click on the link “Docket Report.” Information regarding any such hearings will be found on the docket.

(3) Any proposed or final notification to class members.

The proposed Notice of Class Action Settlement as submitted to the Court can be found on the enclosed CD as “Exhibit 2 – Notice of Class Action Settlement.”

(4) Any proposed or final class action settlement.

The Settlement Agreement entered into by the parties (including Exhibits A–E) and as submitted to the Court can be found on the enclosed CD as “Exhibit 3 – Settlement Agreement.” There are no other agreements contemporaneously made between Class Counsel and counsel for the Defendants.

(5) A final judgment or notice of dismissal.

Final judgment has not yet been entered. Upon entry, a copy of the Final Order and Judgment will be available through PACER and can be accessed online through the process described in section (3) above.

(6) Names of class members who reside in each state and the estimated proportionate share of the claims of such members to the entire settlement.

It is not feasible to provide a list of the names of the class members at this time, because the list continues to be compiled, and the Settlement Agreement defines the Class Period as running through the date of the Preliminary Approval Order (*i.e.*, a date to be determined in the future). The specific settlement allocation to each Class Member will be determined by the Settlement Administrator pursuant to the Plan of Allocation to be approved by the Court. The proposed Plan of Allocation appears as Exhibit B to the Settlement Agreement. We do not yet know which Class Members will receive settlement proceeds or how much each Class Member will receive, and it is not feasible to determine the estimated proportionate share of the entire settlement of the claims of the Class Members who reside in each state. Upon final approval of the settlement by the court, settlement proceeds will be distributed among the Class Members according to the Plan of Allocation as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

(7) Any written judicial opinion relating to the materials described in (3) through (5).

The Court has not yet entered an order granting preliminary approval to the settlement and has not issued any other decisions relating to the materials described in this correspondence. Upon entry, a copy of any such order or decision can be accessed via PACER using the process described in section (3) above.

Final judgment has not yet been entered. Upon entry, a copy of said judgment can be accessed via PACER using the process described in section (3) above.

The Defendants in this matter are represented by Brantley Webb of Mayer Brown LLP, 1999 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Brantley Webb at (202) 263-3188 or bwebb@mayerbrown.com. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Office of the Settlement Administrator

Enclosures