

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

INDIANA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM, ⁾	Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407
Individually and on Behalf of All Others)	
Similarly Situated,)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
)
Plaintiff,)	Judge Eli J. Richardson
)
vs.)	Magistrate Judge Alistair E. Newbern
)
MICHAEL T. CARTWRIGHT, KIRK R.)	STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
MANZ and ANDREW W. McWILLIAMS,)	
)
Defendants.)	
_____)	

This Stipulation of Settlement, dated May 17, 2023 (the “Stipulation”), is made and entered into by and among: (i) Indiana Public Retirement System (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of itself and each Class Member,¹ by and through its counsel of record in the Litigation; and (ii) Michael T. Cartwright, Kirk R. Manz, and Andrew McWilliams (“Defendants”), by and through their counsel of record in the Litigation. The Stipulation is intended to fully, finally, and forever resolve, discharge, and settle the Litigation and the Released Claims, subject to the approval of the Court and the terms and conditions set forth in this Stipulation.

I. THE LITIGATION

This case, styled *Indiana Public Retirement System v. Cartwright, et al.*, Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407 (M.D. Tenn.) (the “Litigation”), is currently pending before the Honorable Eli

¹ All capitalized terms not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in §IV.1 herein.

Richardson in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee (the “Court”). The initial complaint in the Litigation was filed on May 16, 2019. On August 13, 2019, the Court appointed Indiana Public Retirement System as Lead Plaintiff and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP as Lead Counsel. ECF 37.

On November 4, 2019, Plaintiff filed the operative Consolidated Complaint for Violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Complaint”), alleging violations of §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”). ECF 45. More specifically, Plaintiff alleged that throughout the alleged Class Period (March 8, 2017 through April 15, 2019, inclusive), AAC Holdings, Inc. (“AAC” or the “Company”),² a for-profit healthcare company operating addiction treatment centers, transitional “sober living” services, and drug testing services, and certain of its executives, engaged in a fraudulent scheme, made materially false and misleading statements, and/or failed to disclose that: (1) to fill beds in its treatment centers, the Company had operated deceptive websites that appeared to give unbiased, reliable advice about addiction and treatment facilities, but in fact were set up to recruit people to AAC facilities; and (2) AAC had fraudulently inflated its accounts receivable, and thus overstated its reported net income and/or understated the net losses it reported to investors during the Class Period. Plaintiff further alleged that Defendants’ allegedly fraudulent misconduct and false and misleading statements caused AAC common stock to trade at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period until the true nature of Defendants’ alleged wrongdoing was disclosed, and the price of AAC common stock fell, causing damages to Plaintiff and other Members of the Class.

² AAC was dismissed without prejudice on April 29, 2021, following AAC’s bankruptcy. ECF 69; *see also* Lead Plaintiff’s Unopposed Motion for Dismissal of Defendant AAC Holdings, Inc. Without Prejudice, ECF 68 at 2-3 (informing the Court that Plaintiff had negotiated for provisions in the Bankruptcy Court’s Plan and Confirmation Order that “protect and preserve its rights and the rights of all members of the proposed class in connection with this action,” and permits the Litigation to proceed against the remaining Defendants).

On January 13, 2020, Plaintiff filed a supplement to the Complaint alleging that Defendants had concealed a Securities and Exchange Commission subpoena and investigation concerning AAC's accounts receivable, restatements, and accounting policies. ECF 48. Plaintiff filed a second supplement to the Complaint on February 5, 2020, to add new allegations regarding defendant Michael Cartwright's resignation as AAC's Chief Executive Officer on January 24, 2020. ECF 51.

On February 12, 2020, Defendants moved to dismiss the Complaint. ECF 52-53. On April 10, 2020, Plaintiff filed its opposition to Defendants' motion to dismiss. ECF 56. On May 12, 2020, Defendants filed their reply brief. ECF 59. On April 8, 2021, the Court denied Defendants' motion. ECF 62.

On July 6, 2021, Plaintiff moved to certify the class. ECF 76-78. Defendants filed their opposition on September 7, 2021 (ECF 83), and Plaintiff filed its reply on June 13, 2022 (ECF 98). After the Court granted leave for Defendants to file a sur-reply on the class certification motion, Defendants filed their sur-reply on July 20, 2022. ECF 106-109. On February 24, 2023, the Court granted in part and denied in part Plaintiff's motion for class certification. ECF 138. Plaintiff moved for reconsideration of the class certification order on March 10, 2023. ECF 149-150. Defendants opposed that motion on March 27, 2023 (ECF 162), and Plaintiff filed its reply on April 3, 2023 (ECF 164). The motion remained pending when the parties notified the Court on April 5, 2023, that they had reached a settlement in principle (ECF 165).

The parties conducted extensive fact and expert discovery, and litigated a number of discovery disputes, including through formal motion practice and informal discovery conferences before the Magistrate Judge. In all, Defendants, AAC, and third parties produced more than 430,000 pages of documents, and the parties conducted 23 fact and expert depositions.

On September 23, 2021, Plaintiff and Defendants participated in a voluntary confidential mediation with Gregory P. Lindstrom, Esq., of Phillips ADR, an experienced mediator. The mediation was preceded by submission of mediation statements by the Settling Parties. The Settling Parties engaged in good faith negotiations but did not reach a settlement. The Settling Parties engaged in two follow-up mediation sessions with Mr. Lindstrom on February 16 and May 5, 2022, and the Settling Parties submitted supplemental mediation statements, but the Settling Parties still did not reach a settlement. Following the mediation sessions and while continuing to litigate the case, the parties continued settlement discussions through Mr. Lindstrom. On April 5, 2023, the parties agreed to settle the Litigation in return for a cash payment of \$3,750,000 for the benefit of the Class, subject to the negotiation of the terms of a Stipulation of Settlement and approval by the Court. This Stipulation (together with the Exhibits hereto) reflects the final and binding agreement among the Settling Parties.

II. DEFENDANTS' DENIALS OF WRONGDOING AND LIABILITY

Throughout this Litigation, Defendants have denied, and continue to deny, any and all of the claims alleged in the Litigation, including any allegations of fault, negligence, liability, wrongdoing, or damages whatsoever. Defendants expressly have denied, and continue to deny, that they have committed any act or made any materially misleading statement giving rise to any liability under the federal securities laws. Defendants expressly have denied, and continue to deny, that they have committed any wrongdoing or violations of law as alleged in any complaint in the Litigation, and maintain that their conduct was at all times proper and in compliance with applicable provisions of law and applicable industry standards. Defendants also have denied, and continue to deny, that they made any material misstatement or omission or engaged in any fraudulent schemes, that the prices of AAC common stock were artificially inflated as a result, that any Class Member, including Plaintiff, suffered any damages, or that any Class Member, including Plaintiff, was harmed by any conduct

alleged in the Litigation or that could have been alleged therein. Defendants maintain that they have meritorious defenses to all claims alleged in the Litigation. Defendants are nevertheless entering into this Settlement to eliminate the uncertainty, risk, costs, and burdens inherent in any litigation, especially in a complex case such as this Litigation.

As set forth below, neither the Settlement nor any of the terms of this Stipulation shall be construed or deemed to be evidence of or constitute an admission, concession, or finding of any fault, negligence, liability, wrongdoing, or damage whatsoever, or any infirmity in the defenses that Defendants have, or could have, asserted. Defendants are entering into this Stipulation solely to eliminate the burden, expense, and uncertainty of further litigation. Defendants have determined that it is desirable and beneficial to them that the Litigation be settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Stipulation.

III. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS AND THE BENEFITS OF SETTLEMENT

Plaintiff and Class Counsel believe that the claims asserted in the Litigation have merit and that the evidence developed to date supports the claims asserted therein. However, Plaintiff and Class Counsel recognize and acknowledge the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to prosecute the Litigation through trial and through appeals. Plaintiff and Class Counsel also have taken into account the uncertain outcome and the risks of any litigation, especially in a complex action such as this Litigation, as well as the difficulties and delays inherent in this Litigation. Plaintiff and Class Counsel also are mindful of the inherent problems of proof under and possible defenses to the securities law violations asserted in the Litigation. Plaintiff and Class Counsel believe that the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation confers substantial benefits upon the Class. Based on their own investigation and evaluation, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation is in the best interests of Plaintiff and the Class.

IV. TERMS OF THE STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT OF SETTLEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, without any concession by Plaintiff that the Litigation lacks merit, and without any concession by the Defendants of any liability, wrongdoing, fault, or lack of merit in the defenses asserted, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and among Plaintiff (on behalf of itself and the Class Members) and Defendants, by and through their counsel, that, subject to the approval of the Court pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, in consideration of the benefits flowing to the parties from the Settlement, the Litigation and the Released Claims shall be finally, fully, and forever compromised, settled, and released, and the Litigation shall be dismissed with prejudice upon and subject to the terms and conditions of this Stipulation, as follows:

1. Definitions

As used in this Stipulation, the following terms, when capitalized, have the meanings specified below:

1.1 “Authorized Claimant” means any Class Member who submits a valid Claim to the Claims Administrator that is accepted for payment pursuant to the Court-approved Plan of Allocation.

1.2 “Claim(s)” means a paper claim submitted on a Proof of Claim and Release form or an electronic claim that is submitted to the Claims Administrator.

1.3 “Claims Administrator” means the firm of Gilardi & Co. LLC.

1.4 “Class” means all Persons who purchased or otherwise acquired the common stock of AAC between March 8, 2017 and April 15, 2019, inclusive (the “Class Period”). Excluded from the Class are AAC, Michael T. Cartwright, Kirk R. Manz, Andrew McWilliams and members of their respective immediate families, any entity of which any of them has a controlling interest and the legal representatives, heirs, predecessors, successors or assigns of any of them. Also excluded from

the Class is any Person who would otherwise be a Member of the Class but who validly and timely requests exclusion in accordance with the requirements set by the Court.

1.5 “Class Counsel” means the law firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP.

1.6 “Class Member” or “Member of the Class” mean a Person who falls within the definition of the Class as set forth in ¶1.4 above.

1.7 “Defendants” means, collectively, Michael T. Cartwright, Kirk R. Manz, and Andrew McWilliams.

1.8 “Defendants’ Counsel” means King & Spalding LLP, and Holland & Knight LLP.

1.9 “Effective Date,” or the date upon which this Settlement becomes “Effective,” means the first date by which all of the events and conditions specified in ¶7.1 of the Stipulation have been met and have occurred or have been waived.

1.10 “Escrow Agent” means the law firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP or its successor(s).

1.11 “Final” means, with respect to any order or Judgment of the Court, that such order or Judgment represents a final and binding determination of all issues within its scope and has not been reversed, vacated, or modified in any way and is no longer subject to appellate review, either because of disposition on appeal and conclusion of the appellate process or because of passage, without action, of time for seeking appellate review. Without limitation, an order or Judgment becomes final when either: (a) no appeal therefrom has been filed and the time has passed for any notice of appeal to be timely filed therefrom; or (b) an appeal has been filed and either (i) the court of appeals has either affirmed the order or Judgment or dismissed that appeal and the time for any reconsideration or further appellate review has passed; or (ii) a higher court has granted further appellate review and that court has either affirmed the underlying order or Judgment or affirmed the

court of appeals' decision affirming the Judgment or dismissing the appeal. For purposes of this paragraph, an "appeal" shall include any motion for reconsideration or petition for a writ of *certiorari* or other writ that may be filed in connection with approval or disapproval of this Settlement. Any appeal or proceeding seeking subsequent judicial review pertaining solely to an order issued with respect to: (i) attorneys' fees, costs, or expenses, (ii) the Plan of Allocation (as submitted or subsequently modified), or (iii) the procedures for determining Authorized Claimants' recognized Claims, shall not in any way delay, affect, or preclude the time set forth above for the Judgment to become Final, or otherwise preclude the Judgment from becoming Final.

1.12 "Judgment" means the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal with Prejudice to be rendered by the Court, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, as well as any form of final judgment that may be entered by the Court in a form other than the form attached hereto as Exhibit B and where none of the Settling Parties elects to terminate this Settlement by reason of such variance, consistent with the terms of this Stipulation.

1.13 "Litigation" means the lawsuit filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee captioned *Indiana Public Retirement System v. Cartwright, et al.*, Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407 (M.D. Tenn.).

1.14 "Net Settlement Fund" means the Settlement Fund less: (i) any Court-awarded attorneys' fees, expenses, and interest thereon; (ii) Notice and Administration Expenses; (iii) Taxes and Tax Expenses; and (iv) other Court-approved deductions.

1.15 "Person(s)" means an individual, corporation (including all divisions and subsidiaries), limited liability corporation, professional corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, professional corporation, joint venture, association, joint stock company, estate, legal representative, trust, unincorporated association,

government or any political subdivision or agency thereof, and any business or legal entity, and all of their respective spouses, heirs, beneficiaries, executors, administrators, predecessors, successors, representatives, or assignees.

1.16 “Plaintiff” means Indiana Public Retirement System.

1.17 “Plaintiff’s Counsel” means any attorney or firm who has appeared in the Litigation, or AAC’s bankruptcy proceedings, on behalf of any plaintiff or proposed class.

1.18 “Plan of Allocation” means a plan or formula of allocation of the Net Settlement Fund whereby the Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Authorized Claimants. Any Plan of Allocation is not part of this Stipulation and neither Defendants nor their Related Parties shall have any responsibility or liability with respect thereto.

1.19 “Proof of Claim” means the Proof of Claim and Release form for submitting a Claim. Subject to approval of the Court, the Proof of Claim shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-2, which a Class Member must complete and submit should that Class Member seek to share in a distribution of the Net Settlement Fund.

1.20 “Related Parties” means each Defendant’s respective immediate family members, spouses, heirs, estates, executors, trusts, trustees, administrators, agents, legal or personal representatives, attorneys, insurers, principals, employees, auditors, accountants, advisors, assigns, and assignees of each of them, in their capacity as such; and AAC and its past or present trustees, executors, administrators, officers, directors, partners, members, employees, contractors, auditors, accountants, advisors (including financial advisors or consultants), principals, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, assigns, representatives, affiliates, joint venturers, shareholders, underwriters, insurers, personal or legal representatives, estates, financial advisors or consultants,

banks or investment bankers, parents, subsidiaries, general or limited partners or partnerships, and limited liability companies.

1.21 “Released Claims” means any and all claims and causes of action of every nature and description, whether known or unknown, asserted or unasserted, accrued or unaccrued, fixed or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, whether arising under federal, state, common, or foreign law or any other law, rule or regulation, whether class or individual in nature, arising out of, relating to or in connection with both: (i) the purchase and/or other acquisition of AAC common stock during the period March 8, 2017 through April 15, 2019, inclusive; and (ii) the facts, matters, events, transactions, acts, occurrences, statements, representations, misrepresentations and/or omissions that were or could have been alleged in the Litigation. “Released Claims” does not include claims to enforce the Settlement, or the claims of any Person who submits a request for exclusion in connection with this Settlement. “Released Claims” includes “Unknown Claims” as defined in ¶1.31 hereof.

1.22 “Released Defendants’ Claims” means any and all claims and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, against Plaintiff, Plaintiff’s Counsel, or any Class Member that arise out of or relate in any way to the institution, prosecution, or settlement of the claims against Defendants in the Litigation, except for claims relating to the enforcement of the Settlement.

1.23 “Released Defendant Party” or “Released Defendant Parties” or “Released Persons” mean Defendants, their Related Parties, and Defendants’ Counsel.

1.24 “Releasing Plaintiff Party” or “Releasing Plaintiff Parties” mean each and every Class Member, Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Plaintiff’s Counsel, and each of their respective past or present trustees, executors, administrators, officers, directors, partners, members, employees, contractors,

auditors, accountants, advisors (including financial advisors or consultants), principals, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, assigns, representatives, affiliates, joint venturers, shareholders, underwriters, insurers, personal or legal representatives, estates, financial advisors or consultants, banks or investment bankers, parents, subsidiaries, general or limited partners or partnerships, and limited liability companies; and the spouses, members of the immediate families, representatives, and heirs of any Releasing Plaintiff Party who is an individual, as well as any trust of which any Releasing Plaintiff Party is the settlor or which is for the benefit of any of their immediate family members. Releasing Plaintiff Parties does not include any Person who would otherwise be a Member of the Class but who validly and timely requests exclusion from the Class.

1.25 “Settlement” means the resolution of the Litigation in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Stipulation.

1.26 “Settlement Amount” means Three Million, Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S. \$3,750,000.00) to be paid by check to the Escrow Agent pursuant to ¶2.2 of this Stipulation.

1.27 “Settlement Fund” means the Settlement Amount plus all interest and accretions thereto.

1.28 “Settlement Hearing” means the hearing set by the Court under Rule 23(e)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to consider final approval of the Settlement.

1.29 “Settling Parties” means, collectively, Defendants and Plaintiff, on behalf of itself and the Class.

1.30 “Tax” or “Taxes” mean any and all taxes, fees, levies, duties, tariffs, imposts, and other charges of any kind (together with any and all interest, penalties, additions to tax and

additional amounts imposed with respect thereto) imposed by any governmental authority, including, but not limited to, any local, state, and federal taxes.

1.31 “Unknown Claims” means (a) any and all Released Claims which any of the Releasing Plaintiff Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of the Released Defendant Parties, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement with and release of the Released Defendant Parties, or might have affected his, her, or its decision(s) with respect to the Settlement, including, but not limited to, whether or not to object to this Settlement or seek exclusion from the Class; and (b) any and all Released Defendants’ Claims that any of the Released Defendant Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff’s Counsel, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement and release of Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff’s Counsel. With respect to (a) any and all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, and (b) any and all Released Defendants’ Claims against Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff’s Counsel, the Settling Parties stipulate and agree that, upon the Effective Date, the Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have expressly waived, the provisions, rights, and benefits of California Civil Code §1542, which provides:

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

The Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, expressly waived any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to

California Civil Code §1542. The Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties acknowledge that they may hereafter discover facts, legal theories, or authorities in addition to or different from those which he, she, it, or their counsel now knows or believes to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims or Released Defendants' Claims, but (a) the Releasing Plaintiff Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish, and release, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party shall be deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, accrued or unaccrued, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, or may hereafter exist, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law, or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities, and (b) the Released Defendant Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish, and release, and each Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Defendants' Claims against Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to,

conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities. The Settling Parties acknowledge, and the Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties shall be deemed by operation of the Judgment to have acknowledged, that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and is an essential element of the Settlement of which this release is a part.

2. The Settlement

2.1 The obligations incurred pursuant to the Stipulation are: (a) subject to approval by the Court and the Judgment, reflecting such approval, becoming Final; and (b) in full and final disposition of the Litigation, and any and all Released Claims and Released Defendants' Claims upon and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

a. The Settlement Amount

2.2 In full and final settlement of the claims asserted in the Litigation and in consideration of the releases specified in ¶¶4.1-4.4 herein, Defendants shall pay, or cause to be paid, the Settlement Amount by check within fourteen (14) business days after the later of (i) entry of the Court's order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement, or (ii) Plaintiff providing Defendants with all information that is necessary to effectuate a payment by check of the Settlement Amount, including the name of the payee, address for delivery, and a signed W-9 reflecting the taxpayer identification number for the qualified settlement fund in which the Escrow Account has been established. The Escrow Agent shall deposit the Settlement Amount plus any accrued interest in the Escrow Account.

2.3 Other than Defendants' obligation to pay or cause to be paid the Settlement Amount into the Settlement Fund set forth in ¶2.2 herein, the Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to: (i) any act, omission, or

determination by Class Counsel or the Claims Administrator, or any of their respective designees, in connection with the administration of the Settlement or otherwise; (ii) the management, investment, or distribution of the Settlement Fund; (iii) the Plan of Allocation; (iv) the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any Claims asserted against the Settlement Fund; (v) any loss suffered by, or fluctuation in value of, the Settlement Fund; or (vi) the payment or withholding of any Taxes, expenses, and/or costs incurred in connection with the taxation of the Settlement Fund, distributions or other payments from the Escrow Account, or the filing of any federal, state, or local returns.

2.4 Other than the obligation to cause the payment of the Settlement Amount in accordance with the terms of ¶2.2, the Released Defendant Parties shall have no obligation to make any other payments pursuant to the Stipulation.

b. The Escrow Agent

2.5 The Escrow Agent shall invest the Settlement Amount deposited pursuant to ¶2.2 hereof in United States Agency or Treasury Securities or other instruments backed by the Full Faith & Credit of the United States Government or an Agency thereof, or fully insured by the United States Government or an Agency thereof, or in money funds holding only instruments backed by the Full Faith & Credit of the United States Government or an Agency thereof, and shall reinvest the proceeds of these instruments as they mature in similar instruments at their then-current market rates. All risks related to the investment of the Settlement Fund in accordance with the investment guidelines set forth in this paragraph shall be borne by the Settlement Fund, and the Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to investment decisions or the actions of the Escrow Agent, or any transactions executed by the Escrow Agent. The Escrow Agent, through the Settlement Fund, shall indemnify and hold each of the Released Defendant Parties and their counsel harmless for the actions of the Escrow Agent.

2.6 The Escrow Agent shall not disburse the Settlement Fund except as provided in this Stipulation, by an order of the Court, or with the prior written agreement of Defendants' Counsel.

2.7 Subject to further order(s) and/or directions as may be made by the Court, or as provided in this Stipulation, the Escrow Agent is authorized to execute such transactions as are consistent with the terms of this Stipulation. The Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to the actions of the Escrow Agent, or any transaction executed by the Escrow Agent. The Escrow Agent, through the Settlement Fund, shall indemnify and hold each of the Released Defendant Parties and their counsel harmless for any transaction executed by the Escrow Agent.

2.8 All funds held by the Escrow Agent shall be deemed and considered to be in *custodia legis* of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as such funds shall be distributed pursuant to this Stipulation and/or further order(s) of the Court.

2.9 Notwithstanding the fact that the Effective Date of the Settlement has not yet occurred, Class Counsel may pay from the Settlement Fund, without further approval from Defendants and/or order of the Court, reasonable costs and expenses actually incurred in connection with providing notice of the Settlement by mail, publication, and other means, locating potential Class Members, assisting with the submission of Claims, processing Proof of Claim forms, administering the Settlement, and paying escrow taxes, fees, and costs, if any ("Notice and Administration Expenses").

2.10 It shall be Class Counsel's responsibility to disseminate the Notice, Proof of Claim, and Summary Notice to potential Class Members in accordance with this Stipulation and as ordered by the Court. The Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for or liability whatsoever with respect to the Notice and Administration Expenses, nor shall they have any responsibility or

liability whatsoever for any claims with respect thereto. The Escrow Agent, through the Settlement Fund, shall indemnify and hold each of the Released Defendant Parties and their counsel harmless for any Notice and Administration Expenses.

c. Taxes

2.11 The Settling Parties agree as follows:

(a) The Settling Parties and the Escrow Agent agree to treat the Settlement Fund as being at all times a “qualified settlement fund” within the meaning of Treas. Reg. §1.468B-1, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The Settling Parties and the Escrow Agent further agree that the Settlement Fund shall be established pursuant to the Court’s subject matter jurisdiction within the meaning of Treas. Reg. §1.468B-1(c)(1). In addition, the Escrow Agent shall timely make such elections as necessary or advisable to carry out the provisions of this ¶2.11, including the “relation-back election” (as defined in Treas. Reg. §1.468B-1) back to 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 Escrow Agent to timely and properly prepare and deliver the necessary documentation for signature by all necessary parties, and thereafter to cause the appropriate filing to occur.

(b) For the purpose of §1.468B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, the “administrator” (as defined in Treas. Reg. §1.468B-2(k)(3)) shall be the Escrow Agent. The Escrow Agent shall timely and properly file all informational and other federal, state, or local tax returns necessary or advisable with respect to the earnings on the Settlement Fund (including, without limitation, the returns described in Treas. Reg. §1.468B-2(k)). Such returns (as well as the elections described in ¶2.11(a) hereof) shall be consistent with this ¶2.11 and in all events shall reflect that all Taxes (including any estimated

Taxes, interest, or penalties) on the income earned by the Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund as provided in ¶2.11(c) hereof.

(c) All (i) Taxes (including any estimated Taxes, interest, or penalties) arising with respect to the income earned by the Settlement Fund, including any Taxes or tax detriments that may be imposed upon the Released Defendant Parties or their counsel with respect to any income earned by the Settlement Fund for any period, after the deposit of the Settlement Amount, during which the Settlement Fund does not qualify as a “qualified settlement fund” for federal or state income tax purposes, and (ii) expenses and costs incurred in connection with the operation and implementation of this ¶2.11 (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 ¶2.11) (“Tax Expenses”), shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund; in all events, the Released Defendant Parties and their counsel shall have no liability or responsibility whatsoever for the Taxes or the Tax Expenses. The Escrow Agent, through the Settlement Fund, shall indemnify and hold each of the Released Defendant Parties and their counsel harmless for Taxes and Tax Expenses (including, without limitation, Taxes payable by reason of any such indemnification). Further, Taxes and Tax Expenses shall be treated as, and considered to be, a cost of administration of the Settlement Fund and shall be timely paid by the Escrow Agent out of the Settlement Fund without prior order from the Court and the Escrow Agent shall be authorized (notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary) to withhold from distribution to Authorized Claimants any funds necessary to pay such amounts, including the establishment of adequate reserves for any Taxes and Tax Expenses (as well as any amounts that may be required to be withheld under Treas. Reg. §1.468B-2(1)(2)); neither the Released Defendant Parties nor their counsel are responsible nor shall they have any liability for any Taxes or Tax Expenses. The

Settling Parties hereto agree to cooperate with the Escrow Agent, each other, and their tax attorneys and accountants to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this ¶2.11.

2.12 This is not a claims-made settlement. As of the Effective Date, the Released Defendant Parties, and/or any other Person funding the Settlement on their behalf, shall not have any right to the return of the Settlement Fund or any portion thereof for any reason, and shall not have liability should Claims made exceed the amount available in the Settlement Fund for payment of such Claims. The Released Defendant Parties shall not be liable for the loss of any portion of the Settlement Fund, nor have any liability, obligation, or responsibility for the payment of Claims, Taxes, legal fees, or any other expenses payable from the Settlement Fund.

d. Termination of Settlement

2.13 In the event that this Stipulation is not approved or the Settlement is not approved, or is terminated, canceled, or the Effective Date otherwise fails to occur for any reason, including, without limitation, in the event the Judgment is reversed or vacated or altered following any appeal taken therefrom, or is successfully collaterally attacked, the Settlement Fund less Notice and Administration Expenses or Taxes or Tax Expenses paid, incurred, or due and owing pursuant to ¶¶2.9 and 2.11 hereof in connection with the Settlement provided for herein, shall be refunded pursuant to written instructions from Defendants' Counsel in accordance with ¶7.4 herein.

3. Preliminary Approval Order and Settlement Hearing

3.1 Immediately following execution of this Stipulation, Class Counsel shall submit this Stipulation together with its Exhibits to the Court and shall apply for entry of an order (the "Preliminary Approval Order"), substantially in the form of Exhibit A attached hereto, requesting, *inter alia*, the preliminary approval of the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e)(2), certification of the Class, and approval for the mailing of a settlement notice (the "Notice") and publication of a summary notice ("Summary Notice"),

substantially in the forms of Exhibits A-1 and A-3, respectively, attached hereto. The Notice shall include the general terms of the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation, the proposed Plan of Allocation, the general terms of the Fee and Expense Application, as defined in ¶6.1 hereof, and the date of the Settlement Hearing, as defined in ¶1.28 and below.

3.2 It shall be solely Class Counsel's responsibility to disseminate the Notice and Summary Notice to the Class in accordance with this Stipulation and as ordered by the Court. Class Members shall have no recourse as to the Released Defendant Parties with respect to any claims they may have that arise from any failure of the notice process.

3.3 Class Counsel shall request that, after notice is given and not earlier than ninety (90) calendar days after the later of the dates on which the appropriate Federal official and the appropriate State officials are provided with notice, at Defendants' expense, pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §1715 *et seq.* ("CAFA"), the Court hold a hearing (the "Settlement Hearing") and approve the Settlement of the Litigation as set forth herein. At or after the Settlement Hearing, Class Counsel also will request that the Court approve the proposed Plan of Allocation and the Fee and Expense Application.

4. Releases

4.1 Upon the Effective Date, as defined in ¶1.9 hereof, Plaintiff shall have, and each and every Releasing Plaintiff Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever waived, released, relinquished, discharged, and dismissed each and every one of the Released Claims against each and every one of the Released Defendant Parties and shall forever be barred and enjoined from commencing, instituting, prosecuting, or maintaining any and all of the Released Claims against any and all of the Released Defendant Parties, whether or not such Releasing Plaintiff Party executes and delivers the Proof of Claim or shares in the Net Settlement Fund. Claims to enforce the terms of this Stipulation are not released.

4.2 Any Proof of Claim that is executed by Class Members shall release all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties and shall be substantially in the form contained in Exhibit A-2 attached hereto.

4.3 Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Plaintiff Parties will be forever barred and enjoined from commencing, instituting, prosecuting, or continuing to prosecute any action or other proceeding in any court of law or equity, arbitration tribunal, or administrative forum, asserting the Released Claims against any of the Released Defendant Parties.

4.4 Upon the Effective Date, each of the Released Defendant Parties shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Defendants' Claims against Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel. Claims to enforce the terms of this Stipulation are not released.

5. Administration and Calculation of Claims, Final Awards, and Supervision and Distribution of the Settlement Fund

5.1 The Claims Administrator, subject to such supervision and direction of Class Counsel and the Court as may be necessary or as circumstances may require, shall administer and calculate the Claims submitted by Class Members and shall oversee distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants. With the exception that Defendants shall be responsible for providing any required notice under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"), the Released Defendant Parties and Defendants' Counsel shall have no responsibility for or interest whatsoever in the administration of the Settlement or the actions or decisions of the Claims Administrator, and shall have no liability whatsoever to the Releasing Plaintiff Parties, including Plaintiff, any other Class Members, or Plaintiff's Counsel, in connection with such administration, including, but not limited to: (i) any act, omission, or determination by Class Counsel, the Escrow Agent, and/or the Claims Administrator, or any of their respective designees or agents, in connection with the administration

of the Settlement or otherwise; (ii) the management or investment of the Settlement Fund or the Net Settlement Fund, or the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund; (iii) the Plan of Allocation; (iv) the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any Claims asserted against the Settlement Fund; (v) any losses suffered by, or fluctuations in value of, the Settlement Fund; or (vi) the payment or withholding of any Taxes, expenses, and/or costs incurred with the taxation of the Settlement Fund or the filing of any federal, state, or local returns.

5.2 The Settlement Fund shall be applied as follows:

- (a) to pay all Notice and Administration Expenses;
- (b) to pay the Taxes and Tax Expenses;
- (c) to pay attorneys' fees and expenses of Plaintiff's Counsel and to pay any award to Plaintiff for its reasonable costs and expenses (including lost wages) pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4), if and to the extent allowed by the Court (the "Fee and Expense Award"); and
- (d) after the Effective Date, to distribute the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants as provided by this Stipulation, the Plan of Allocation, or the orders of the Court.

5.3 After the Effective Date, and in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation, the Plan of Allocation, or such further approval and further order(s) of the Court as may be necessary or as circumstances may require, the Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Authorized Claimants, subject to and in accordance with the following provisions of this Stipulation.

5.4 Within one hundred-twenty (120) calendar days after the mailing of the Notice or such other time as may be set by the Court, each Class Member shall be required to submit to the Claims Administrator a completed Proof of Claim, substantially in the form of Exhibit A-2 attached hereto, signed under penalty of perjury and supported by such documents as are specified in the Proof of Claim.

5.5 Except as otherwise ordered by the Court, all Class Members who fail to timely submit a valid Proof of Claim within such period, or such other period as may be ordered by the Court, or otherwise allowed, shall be forever barred from receiving any payments pursuant to this Stipulation and the Settlement set forth herein, but will, in all other respects, be subject to and bound by the provisions of this Stipulation, the releases contained herein, and the Judgment, and will be barred from bringing any action against the Released Defendant Parties concerning the Released Claims. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Class Counsel shall have the discretion (but not an obligation) to accept late-submitted Claims for processing by the Claims Administrator so long as the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants is not materially delayed thereby. No Person shall have any claim against Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the Claims Administrator, or any Class Member by reason of the exercise or non-exercise of such discretion.

5.6 Each Proof of Claim shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Claims Administrator, under the supervision of Class Counsel, who shall determine, in accordance with this Stipulation and the approved Plan of Allocation, the extent, if any, to which each Claim shall be allowed, subject to review by the Court pursuant to ¶5.8 below.

5.7 Proof of Claim forms that do not meet the submission requirements may be rejected. Prior to rejecting a Proof of Claim in whole or in part, the Claims Administrator shall communicate with the claimant in writing to give the claimant the chance to remedy any curable deficiencies in the Proof of Claim submitted. The Claims Administrator, under the supervision of Class Counsel, shall notify, in a timely fashion and in writing, all claimants whose Claims the Claims Administrator proposes to reject in whole or in part for curable deficiencies, setting forth the reasons therefor, and shall indicate in such notice that the claimant whose Claim is to be rejected has the right to a review by the Court if the claimant so desires and complies with the requirements of ¶5.8 below.

5.8 If any claimant whose timely Claim has been rejected in whole or in part for curable deficiency desires to contest such rejection, the claimant must, within twenty (20) calendar days after the date of mailing of the notice required in ¶5.7 above, or a lesser period of time if the Claim was untimely, serve upon the Claims Administrator a notice and statement of reasons indicating the claimant's grounds for contesting the rejection along with any supporting documentation, and requesting a review thereof by the Court. If a dispute concerning a Claim cannot be otherwise resolved, Class Counsel shall thereafter present the claimant's request for review to the Court.

5.9 Each claimant who declines to be excluded from the Class shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to the claimant's Claim, including, but not limited to, all releases provided for herein and in the Judgment, and the Claim will be subject to investigation and discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, provided that such investigation and discovery shall be limited to the claimant's status as a Class Member and the validity and amount of the claimant's Claim. In connection with processing the Proofs of Claim, no discovery shall be allowed on the merits of the Litigation or the Settlement. All proceedings with respect to the administration, processing, and determination of Claims and the determination of all controversies relating thereto, including disputed questions of law and fact with respect to the validity of Claims, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, but shall not, in any event, delay or affect the finality of the Judgment. All Class Members, other claimants, and parties to this Settlement expressly waive trial by jury (to the extent any such right may exist) and any right of appeal or review with respect to such determinations.

5.10 Following the Effective Date, the Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to the Authorized Claimants substantially in accordance with the Plan of Allocation set forth in the Notice and approved by the Court. No distributions will be made to Authorized Claimants who would

otherwise receive a distribution of less than \$10.00. If there is any balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund after a reasonable period of time after the date of the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, Class Counsel shall, if feasible, reallocate such balance among Authorized Claimants who negotiated the checks sent in the initial distribution and who would receive a minimum of \$10.00. These redistributions shall be repeated until the balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund is *de minimis*. Any *de minimis* balance that still remains in the Net Settlement Fund after such reallocation(s) and payments, which is not feasible or economical to reallocate, shall be donated to an appropriate non-sectarian, non-profit charitable organization(s) serving the public interest selected by Class Counsel.

5.11 The Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, the Plan of Allocation, the determination, administration, or calculation of Claims, the payment or withholding of Taxes or Tax Expenses, or any losses incurred in connection therewith. No Person shall have any claim of any kind against the Released Defendant Parties with respect to the matters set forth in ¶¶5.1-5.13 hereof; and the Releasing Plaintiff Parties release the Released Defendant Parties from any and all liability and claims arising from or with respect to the administration, investment, or distribution of the Settlement Fund.

5.12 No Person shall have any claim against the Released Defendant Parties, Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the Claims Administrator, or any other Person designated by Class Counsel based on determinations or distributions made substantially in accordance with this Stipulation and the Settlement contained herein, the Plan of Allocation, or further order(s) of the Court.

5.13 It is understood and agreed by the Settling Parties that any proposed Plan of Allocation of the Net Settlement Fund, including, but not limited to, any adjustments to an

Authorized Claimant's Claim set forth therein, is not a part of this Stipulation and is to be considered by the Court separately from the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation, and any order or proceeding relating to the Plan of Allocation shall not operate to terminate or cancel this Stipulation or affect the finality of the Court's Judgment approving this Stipulation and the Settlement set forth herein, or any other orders entered pursuant to the Stipulation.

6. Plaintiff's Counsel's Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

6.1 Class Counsel may submit an application or applications (the "Fee and Expense Application") on behalf of Plaintiff's Counsel for an award from the Settlement Fund for: (a) an award of attorneys' fees; plus (b) expenses or charges in connection with prosecuting the Litigation; plus (c) any interest earned on such attorneys' fees and expenses at the same rate and for the same periods as earned by the Settlement Fund (until paid) as may be awarded by the Court. Any such fees and expenses awarded shall be paid from the Settlement Fund. Any application for fees and expenses may include a request for reimbursement of Plaintiff's reasonable costs and expenses in connection with its representation of the Class pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4). Class Counsel reserves the right to make additional applications for fees and expenses incurred.

6.2 The amount of attorneys' fees and expenses awarded by the Court is within the sole discretion of the Court. Any fees and expenses, as awarded by the Court, shall be paid to Class Counsel from the Settlement Fund, as ordered, immediately after the Court executes the Judgment and an order awarding such fees and expenses, notwithstanding the existence of any timely filed objections thereto or to the Settlement, or potential for appeal therefrom, or collateral attack on the Settlement or any part thereof. Class Counsel shall thereafter allocate the attorneys' fees among Plaintiff's Counsel in a manner in which they in good faith believe reflect the contribution of such counsel to the initiation, prosecution, and resolution of the Litigation.

6.3 In the event that the Effective Date does not occur, or the Judgment or the order making the Fee and Expense Award is reversed or modified, or this Stipulation is canceled or terminated for any other reason, and such reversal, modification, cancellation, or termination becomes Final and not subject to review, and in the event that the Fee and Expense Award has been paid to any extent, then Class Counsel, including their partners and/or shareholders, and such other Plaintiff's Counsel, including their law firms, partners, and/or shareholders, and Plaintiff who have received any portion of the Fee and Expense Award shall, within ten (10) business days from receiving notice from Defendants' Counsel or from a court of appropriate jurisdiction, refund to the Settlement Fund all such fees and expenses previously paid to them from the Settlement Fund plus interest thereon at the same rate as earned by the Settlement Fund in an amount consistent with such reversal, modification, cancellation, or termination. Any refunds required pursuant to this ¶6.3 shall be the several obligation of Plaintiff's Counsel, including their law firms, partners, and/or shareholders, and Plaintiff if it received fees or expenses to make appropriate refunds or repayments to the Settlement Fund. Each such Plaintiff's Counsel or Plaintiff receiving fees and expenses, as a condition of receiving such fees and expenses, on behalf of itself and each partner and/or shareholder of it, agrees that (a) such Person and its partners, shareholders, and/or members are subject to the jurisdiction of the Court for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this paragraph, and (b) are severally liable for the full amount of all fees, expenses, and costs paid from the Settlement Fund. Without limitation, Plaintiff's Counsel and Plaintiff and their partners, shareholders, and/or members agree that the Court may, upon application of Defendants and notice to Plaintiff's Counsel, summarily issue orders, including, but not limited to, judgments and attachment orders, and may make appropriate findings of or sanctions for contempt, should such law firms or their partners, shareholders, or members fail to timely repay fees and expenses pursuant to this paragraph.

6.4 The procedure for and the allowance or disallowance by the Court of any applications by any Plaintiff's Counsel for attorneys' fees and expenses to be paid out of the Settlement Fund is not part of the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation, and is to be considered by the Court separately from the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation, and shall have no effect on the terms of the Stipulation or on the validity or enforceability of this Settlement. The approval of the Settlement, and it becoming Final, shall not be contingent on the award of attorneys' fees and expenses, any award to Plaintiff, Class Counsel, or Plaintiff's Counsel, nor any appeals from such awards. Any order or proceeding relating to the Fee and Expense Application, or any appeal from any order relating thereto or reversal or modification thereof, shall not operate to terminate or cancel this Stipulation, or affect or delay the finality of the Judgment approving this Stipulation and the Settlement of the Litigation set forth therein, or any other orders entered pursuant to the Stipulation of Settlement.

6.5 Any fees and/or expenses awarded by the Court shall be paid solely from the Settlement Fund. With the sole exception of Defendants' obligation to pay or cause the Settlement Amount to be paid into the Escrow Account as provided for in ¶2.2, the Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to, any payment of attorneys' fees and/or expenses (including Taxes) to Plaintiff's Counsel, or any other counsel or Person who receives payment from the Settlement Fund.

6.6 The Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to, the allocation among Plaintiff's Counsel and/or any other Person who may assert some claim thereto, of any Fee and Expense Award that the Court may make in the Litigation.

6.7 The Released Defendant Parties shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to, any attorneys' fees, costs, or expenses (including Taxes) incurred by or on behalf of any Class Member, whether or not paid from the Escrow Account.

7. Conditions of Settlement, Effect of Disapproval, Cancellation, or Termination

7.1 The Effective Date of the Settlement shall be conditioned on the occurrence of all of the following events:

- (a) the Settlement Amount has been deposited into the Escrow Account;
- (b) the Court has entered the Preliminary Approval Order directing notice to the Class, as required by ¶3.1 hereof;
- (c) Defendants have not exercised their option to terminate the Settlement pursuant to ¶7.3 hereof;
- (d) the Court has entered the Judgment, or a judgment substantially in the form of Exhibit B attached hereto; and
- (e) the Judgment has become Final, as defined in ¶1.11 hereof.

7.2 Upon the Effective Date, any and all remaining interest or right of the Defendants in or to the Settlement Fund, if any, shall be absolutely and forever extinguished. The Released Defendant Parties shall not have any liability, obligation, or responsibility for the payment of Claims, Taxes, legal fees, or any other expenses payable from the Settlement Fund. If the conditions specified in ¶7.1 hereof are not met, then the Settlement shall be canceled and terminated subject to ¶¶7.4-7.6 hereof unless the Settling Parties mutually agree in writing to proceed with the Settlement. For avoidance of doubt, no order of the Court or modification or reversal on appeal of any order of the Court concerning the Plan of Allocation or the amount of any attorneys' fees, expenses, and

interest awarded by the Court to Class Counsel or expenses to Plaintiff shall operate to terminate or cancel this Stipulation or constitute grounds for cancellation or termination of the Stipulation.

7.3 As set forth in a separate agreement (the “Supplemental Agreement”) executed between Plaintiff and Defendants, by and through their counsel, Defendants may terminate the Settlement and render it null and void in the event that Members of the Class who collectively purchased or otherwise acquired more than a certain number of AAC shares of common stock during the Class Period exclude themselves from the Class. The Settling Parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of the Supplemental Agreement, which is being executed concurrently herewith. The Supplemental Agreement shall not be filed with the Court and its terms shall not be disclosed in any other manner (other than in the statements herein and in the Notice, to the extent necessary, or as otherwise provided in the Supplemental Agreement or by operation of law), unless and until the Court requires the Settling Parties to file the Supplemental Agreement or disclose its terms. If submission of the Supplemental Agreement is ordered by the Court or is necessary to resolve a dispute between Plaintiff and Defendants, the Settling Parties will seek to have the Supplemental Agreement submitted to the Court *in camera* or filed under seal, but such disclosure shall be carried out to the fullest extent possible in accordance with the practices of the Court as to preserve the confidentiality of the Supplemental Agreement, particularly the termination threshold.

7.4 Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, in the event this Stipulation is not approved or this Stipulation or the Settlement is terminated, or canceled, or the Effective Date otherwise fails to occur for any reason, including, without limitation, in the event the Judgment is reversed or vacated or altered following any appeal taken therefrom, or is successfully collaterally attacked, within ten (10) business days after written notification of such event is sent by Defendants’ Counsel or Class Counsel to the Escrow Agent, the Settlement Fund (including accrued interest), less Taxes, Tax

Expenses and Notice and Administration Expenses which have either been disbursed pursuant to ¶¶2.9 and/or 2.11 hereof, or are chargeable to the Settlement Fund pursuant to ¶¶2.9 and/or 2.11 hereof, shall be refunded by the Escrow Agent to the Defendants. Such refunds shall be pursuant to written instructions from Defendants' Counsel. The Escrow Agent or its designee shall apply for any tax refund owed on the Settlement Amount and pay the proceeds, after deduction of any fees or expenses incurred in connection with such application(s) for refund to Defendants. Such payments shall be pursuant to written instructions from Defendants' Counsel.

7.5 In the event that this Stipulation is not approved or this Stipulation or the Settlement is terminated, canceled, or the Effective Date otherwise fails to occur for any reason, the Settling Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Litigation as of April 5, 2023. In such event, the terms and provisions of the Stipulation, with the exception of ¶¶1.1-1.31, 2.7-2.9, 2.11-2.13, 6.3, 7.4-7.6, 8.1, and 9.4 hereof, shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Settling Parties and shall not be used in this Litigation or in any other proceeding for any purpose, and any judgment or order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*. No order of the Court or modification or reversal on appeal of any order of the Court concerning the Plan of Allocation or any Fee and Expense Award shall operate to terminate or cancel this Stipulation or constitute grounds for cancellation or termination of this Stipulation.

7.6 If the Effective Date does not occur, or if this Stipulation is terminated pursuant to its terms, neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's Counsel shall have any obligation to repay any amounts disbursed pursuant to ¶¶2.9 or 2.11. In addition, any amounts already incurred pursuant to ¶¶2.9 or 2.11 hereof at the time of such termination or cancellation but which have not been paid, shall be

paid by the Escrow Agent in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation prior to the balance being refunded in accordance with ¶¶2.13 and 7.4 hereof.

8. No Admission of Wrongdoing

8.1 Neither the Settlement, this Stipulation (whether or not consummated), including the Exhibits hereto and the Plan of Allocation contained therein (or any other plan of allocation that may be approved by the Court), the negotiations leading to the execution of this Stipulation and the Settlement, nor any proceedings, communications, drafts, documents, or agreements taken pursuant to or in connection with this Stipulation, and/or approval of the Settlement (including any arguments proffered in connection therewith):

(a) shall be offered or received against or to the prejudice of any Defendant as evidence of or construed as or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any Defendant of the truth of any allegations by Plaintiff or any Member of the Class or the validity of any claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Litigation, or the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Litigation or in any other litigation, including, but not limited to, litigation of the Released Claims, or of any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind of any of the Defendants or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Defendants, in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Stipulation;

(b) shall be offered or received against or to the prejudice of Plaintiff or any Class Member as evidence that Plaintiff's claims in any way lack merit or the validity of any affirmative defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Litigation, including, but not limited to, litigation of the Released Claims;

(c) shall be offered or received against or to the prejudice of any Defendant as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission of any fault, misrepresentation, scheme, or

omission with respect to any statement or written document approved or made by any Defendant, or against Plaintiff or any Member of the Class as evidence of any infirmity in the claims of Plaintiff and the Class;

(d) shall be offered or received against or to the prejudice of any Defendant as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission of any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing, or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the parties to this Stipulation, in any other civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding; provided, however, that if this Stipulation is approved by the Court, Defendants and their Related Parties may refer to it to effectuate the release granted them hereunder; or

(e) shall be construed against Defendants, Plaintiff, or the Class as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission that the consideration to be given hereunder represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial or in any proceeding other than this Settlement.

9. Miscellaneous Provisions

9.1 The Settling Parties: (a) acknowledge that it is their intent to consummate this Settlement; and (b) agree to cooperate to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate and implement all terms and conditions of this Stipulation and to exercise their best efforts to accomplish the foregoing terms and conditions of this Stipulation.

9.2 The Settling Parties intend this Settlement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes between them with respect to the Litigation. The Settlement compromises all claims that were or are contested and shall not be deemed an admission by any Settling Party as to the merits of any claim or defense. The Judgment will contain a finding that, during the course of the Litigation, the Settling Parties and their respective counsel at all times complied with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11. The Settling Parties agree that the Settlement Amount and the

other terms of the Settlement were negotiated in good faith by the Settling Parties, and reflect a settlement that was reached voluntarily after consultation with competent legal counsel.

9.3 Defendants and/or the Released Defendant Parties may file this Stipulation and/or the Judgment from this action in any other action that may be brought against them in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, statute of limitations, statute of repose, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim, or to effectuate any liability protection under any applicable insurance policy. The Settling Parties may file this Stipulation and/or the Judgment in any action that may be brought to enforce the terms of this Stipulation and/or the Judgment. All Settling Parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of implementing and enforcing the Settlement.

9.4 All agreements made and orders entered during the course of the Litigation relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive this Stipulation.

9.5 All of the Exhibits to this Stipulation are material and integral parts hereof and are fully incorporated herein by this reference.

9.6 This Stipulation, along with its Exhibits, may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by or on behalf of all Settling Parties or their respective successors-in-interest.

9.7 This Stipulation and the Exhibits attached hereto constitute the entire agreement among the Settling Parties hereto as to the subject matter hereof and supersede any prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements or understandings between the Settling Parties. No representations, warranties, or inducements have been made to any party concerning this Stipulation,

or its Exhibits, other than the representations, warranties, and covenants contained and memorialized in such documents.

9.8 Except as otherwise provided herein, each party shall bear his, her, or its own fees and costs.

9.9 Class Counsel, on behalf of the Class, is expressly authorized by Plaintiff to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by the Class pursuant to this Stipulation to effectuate its terms and also is expressly authorized to enter into any modifications or amendments to this Stipulation on behalf of the Class which it deems appropriate.

9.10 Each counsel or other Person executing this Stipulation, its Exhibits, the Supplemental Agreement, or any related Settlement document, on behalf of any party hereto hereby warrants that such Person has the full authority to do so, and that they have the authority to take appropriate action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to the Stipulation to effectuate its terms, without requiring additional consent, approval, or authorization of any other Person, board, entity, tribunal, or other regulatory or governmental authority.

9.11 This Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. A complete set of executed counterparts shall be filed with the Court. Signatures sent by facsimile or pdf via e-mail shall be deemed originals.

9.12 All notices, requests, demands, claims, and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given (i) when delivered personally to the recipient, (ii) one (1) business day after being sent to the recipient by reputable overnight courier service (charges prepaid), or (iii) seven (7) business days after being mailed to the recipient by certified or registered

mail, return receipt requested and postage prepaid, and addressed to the intended recipient as set forth below:

If to Plaintiff or to Class Counsel:

ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN
& DOWD LLP
ELLEN GUSIKOFF STEWART
655 West Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101

If to the Defendants or Defendants' Counsel:

KING & SPALDING LLP
JESSICA P. CORLEY
LISA R. BUGNI
1180 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 1600
Atlanta, GA 30309

9.13 This Stipulation shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors, heirs, and assigns of the Settling Parties.

9.14 The Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Stipulation, and all Settling Parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of implementing and enforcing the Settlement embodied in this Stipulation and matters related to the Settlement.

9.15 Any waiver of any of the terms of this Stipulation must be in writing, signed by the party against whom the waiver is sought to be enforced. The waiver by one Settling Party of any breach of this Stipulation by any other party shall not be deemed a waiver by any other Settling Party or a waiver of any other prior or subsequent breach of this Stipulation.

9.16 Pending approval of the Court of this Stipulation and its Exhibits, all proceedings in this Litigation shall be stayed and all Members of the Class shall be barred and enjoined from prosecuting any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Defendant Parties.

9.17 This Stipulation and its Exhibits shall be considered to have been negotiated, executed and delivered, and to be wholly performed, in the State of Tennessee and the rights and obligations of the parties to the Stipulation shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the internal, substantive laws of the State of Tennessee without giving effect to its choice-of-law principles, except to the extent that federal law requires that federal law govern.

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

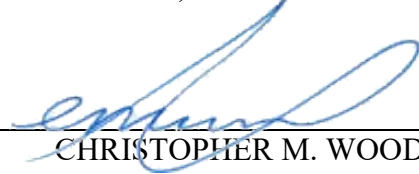
9.19 This Stipulation shall not be construed more strictly against one party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it, or any part of it, may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Settling Parties, it being recognized that it is the result of arm's-length negotiations between the Settling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

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

9.21 Unless otherwise provided, the Settling Parties may agree to reasonable extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of this Stipulation without further order of the Court.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused the Stipulation to be executed, by their duly authorized attorneys, dated May 17, 2023.

ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN
& DOWD LLP
CHRISTOPHER M. WOOD, #032977
CHRISTOPHER H. LYONS, #034853
HENRY S. BATOR, #040431



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Attorneys for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that on May 18, 2023, I authorized the electronic filing of the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the email addresses on the attached Electronic Mail Notice List, and I hereby certify that I caused the mailing of the foregoing via the United States Postal Service to the non-CM/ECF participants indicated on the attached Manual Notice List.

s/ Christopher M. Wood

CHRISTOPHER M. WOOD

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Mailing Information for a Case 3:19-cv-00407 Caudle v. AAC Holdings, Inc. et al

Electronic Mail Notice List

The following are those who are currently on the list to receive e-mail notices for this case.

- **Henry Scattergood Bator**
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Manual Notice List

The following is the list of attorneys who are **not** on the list to receive e-mail notices for this case (who therefore require manual noticing). You may wish to use your mouse to select and copy this list into your word processing program in order to create notices or labels for these recipients.

- (No manual recipients)

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

INDIANA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,	)	Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407
)	
	)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
Plaintiff,	)	Judge Eli J. Richardson
	)	Magistrate Judge Alistair E. Newbern
vs.)	
	)	[PROPOSED] ORDER PRELIMINARILY
MICHAEL T. CARTWRIGHT, KIRK R. MANZ and ANDREW W. McWILLIAMS,	)	APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND
	)	PROVIDING FOR NOTICE
Defendants.	)	EXHIBIT A
)	
)	

WHEREAS, an action is pending before this Court entitled *Indiana Public Retirement System v. Cartwright, et al.*, Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407 (M.D. Tenn.);

WHEREAS, the parties having made application, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e), for an order preliminarily approving the Settlement of this Litigation, in accordance with a Stipulation of Settlement dated May 17, 2023 (the “Stipulation”), which, together with the Exhibits annexed thereto, sets forth the terms and conditions for a proposed Settlement of the Litigation and for dismissal of the Litigation with prejudice upon the terms and conditions set forth therein; and the Court having read and considered the Stipulation and the Exhibits annexed thereto;

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties having consented to the entry of this Order;

WHEREAS, unless otherwise defined, all terms used herein have the same meanings as set forth in the Stipulation;

WHEREAS, the Court preliminarily finds that:

(a) the Settlement resulted from informed, extensive arm's-length negotiations between experienced counsel following multiple mediation sessions under the direction of an experienced mediator;

(b) the proposed Settlement eliminates risks to the Settling Parties of continued litigation;

(c) the Settlement does not provide undue preferential treatment to Plaintiff or to segments of the Class;

(d) the Settlement does not provide excessive compensation to counsel for Plaintiff; and

(e) the Settlement appears to fall within the range of possible approval and is therefore sufficiently fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant providing notice of the Settlement to the Class;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation, subject to further consideration at the Settlement Hearing described below.

2. Pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and for purposes of this Settlement only, the Litigation is hereby certified as a class action on behalf of all Persons who purchased or otherwise acquired the common stock of AAC Holdings, Inc. between March 8, 2017 and April 15, 2019, inclusive (the "Class Period"). Excluded from the Class are AAC, Michael T. Cartwright, Kirk R. Manz, Andrew McWilliams and members of their respective immediate families, any entity of which any of them has a controlling interest and the legal representatives, heirs, predecessors, successors or assigns of any of them. Also excluded from the

Class is any Person who would otherwise be a Member of the Class but who validly and timely requests exclusion in accordance with the requirements set by the Court.

3. The Court finds, for the purpose of the Settlement only, that the prerequisites for a class action under Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure have been satisfied in that: (a) the number of Class Members is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Class; (c) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class it seeks to represent; (d) Plaintiff and Class Counsel have and will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class; (e) the questions of law and fact common to Members of the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members; and (f) a class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the Litigation.

4. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Indiana Public Retirement System is certified as Class Representative and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP is preliminarily certified as Class Counsel.

5. The Court preliminarily finds that the proposed Settlement should be approved as: (i) the result of serious, extensive arm's-length and non-collusive negotiations; (ii) falling within a range of reasonableness warranting final approval; (iii) having no obvious deficiencies; and (iv) warranting notice of the proposed Settlement to Class Members and further consideration of the Settlement at the Settlement Hearing described below.

6. A hearing (the "Settlement Hearing") shall be held before this Court on _____, 2023, at ____ . __.m. (a date that is at least 100 calendar days from entry of this Order), at the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division, Fred D. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, Courtroom 5C, 719 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203, to determine: (a) whether the proposed Settlement of the Litigation on the terms and

conditions provided for in the Stipulation is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Class and should be approved by the Court; (b) whether a Judgment, as provided in ¶1.12 of the Stipulation, should be entered; (c) whether the proposed Plan of Allocation is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved; (d) the amount of fees and expenses that should be awarded to Class Counsel and Plaintiff; and (e) any such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate. The Court may adjourn the Settlement Hearing or decide to hold the Settlement Hearing telephonically or by videoconference without further notice to the Members of the Class, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement. The Court may approve the proposed Settlement with such modifications as the Settling Parties may agree to, if appropriate, without further notice to the Class.

7. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action (the “Notice”), the Proof of Claim and Release form (the “Proof of Claim”), and the Summary Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action (the “Summary Notice”) annexed hereto as Exhibits 1, 2, and 3, respectively, and finds that the mailing and distribution of the Notice and publishing of the Summary Notice, substantially in the manner and form set forth in ¶9 of this Order, meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and due process, and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all Persons entitled thereto.

8. Other than the fees, costs, and expenses of providing notice pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1715, all fees, costs, and expenses incurred in identifying and notifying potential Class Members shall be paid from the Settlement Fund as set forth in the Stipulation, and in no event shall any of the Released Defendant Parties or Releasing Plaintiff Parties bear any responsibility for such fees, costs, or expenses.

9. The firm of Gilardi & Co. LLC (“Claims Administrator”) is hereby appointed to supervise and administer the notice procedure as well as the processing of Claims as more fully set forth below:

(a) Not later than _____, 2023 (the “Notice Date”) (a date twenty-one (21) calendar days after entry by this Court of this Order), the Claims Administrator shall commence mailing the Notice and Proof of Claim, substantially in the forms annexed hereto, by First-Class Mail to all potential Class Members who can be identified with reasonable effort and shall post the Stipulation, Notice, and Proof of Claim on the website established for this Litigation at www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com;

(b) Not later than _____, 2023 (a date seven (7) calendar days after the Notice Date), the Claims Administrator shall cause the Summary Notice to be published once in the national edition of *The Wall Street Journal* and once over a national newswire service; and

(c) At least seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing, Class Counsel shall serve on Defendants’ Counsel and file with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, of such mailing and publishing.

10. Nominees who purchased or otherwise acquired AAC common stock for beneficial owners who are Class Members are directed to: (i) request within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Notice sufficient copies of the Notice from the Claims Administrator to forward to all such beneficial owners; or (ii) send a list of the names and addresses (including email addresses if available) of such beneficial owners to the Claims Administrator within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the Notice. If a nominee elects to send the Notice to beneficial owners, such nominee is directed to email or mail (where an email is unavailable) the Notice within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of those documents from the Claims Administrator, and upon such emailing or mailing,

the nominee shall send a statement to the Claims Administrator confirming that the emailing or mailing was made as directed, and the nominee shall retain the list of names and addresses for use in connection with any possible future notice to the Class. Upon full compliance with these instructions, including the timely emailing or mailing of the Notice to beneficial owners, such nominees may seek reimbursement of their reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with these instructions by providing the Claims Administrator with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought and reflecting compliance with these instructions. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses actually incurred in connection with the foregoing includes up to \$0.03 for providing names, addresses, and email addresses to the Claims Administrator per record; up to a maximum of \$0.03 per Notice mailed by nominee, plus postage at the rate used by the Claims Administrator; or \$0.03 per Notice sent by email. Such properly documented expenses incurred by nominees in compliance with the terms of these instructions will be paid from the Settlement Fund.

11. Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Litigation concerning the Settlement, including, but not limited to, the releases provided for therein, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Class, whether or not such Class Members submit Proofs of Claim or otherwise seek or obtain by any means any distribution from the Settlement Fund.

12. Class Members who wish to participate in the Settlement shall complete and submit a Proof of Claim in accordance with the instructions contained therein. Unless the Court orders otherwise, all Proofs of Claim must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than _____, 2023 (a date one hundred-twenty (120) calendar days from the Notice Date). Any Class Member who does not timely submit a Proof of Claim within the time provided for shall be barred from sharing in the distribution of the proceeds of the Net Settlement Fund, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, but will in all other respects be subject to and bound by the provisions of the

Stipulation and the Judgment, if entered. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Class Counsel may, in its discretion, accept late-submitted Claims for processing by the Claims Administrator so long as distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants is not materially delayed thereby. No person shall have any claim against Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, or the Claims Administrator by reason of the decision to exercise such discretion whether to accept late-submitted Claims.

13. Any Class Member may enter an appearance in the Litigation, at his, her, or its own expense, individually or through counsel of their own choice. Any Class Member who does not enter an appearance will be represented by Class Counsel.

14. Any Member of the Class who wishes to exclude himself, herself, or itself from the Class must request exclusion in writing within the time and in the manner set forth in the Notice. Any such Person must submit to the Claims Administrator a signed request for exclusion ("Request for Exclusion") such that it is postmarked no later than _____, 2023 (a date that is twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing). A Request for Exclusion must provide: (i) the name, address, and telephone number of the Person requesting exclusion; (ii) a list identifying the dates and the number of shares of AAC common stock purchased or otherwise acquired during the Class Period and price paid for each such purchase or acquisition; and (iii) a statement that the Person wishes to be excluded from the Class. All Persons who submit valid and timely Requests for Exclusion in the manner set forth in this paragraph and the Notice shall have no rights under the Settlement, shall not share in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, and shall not be bound by the Settlement or any final Judgment. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, any Person who purchased or otherwise acquired AAC common stock during the Class Period who fails to timely request exclusion from the Class in compliance with each of the provisions in this paragraph shall be

deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to be excluded from the Class, and shall be barred from requesting exclusion from the Class.

15. Class Counsel or the Claims Administrator shall cause to be provided to Defendants' Counsel copies of all Requests for Exclusion, promptly upon receipt and as expeditiously as possible, and in any event, not less than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing.

16. Any Class Member who or which does not request exclusion from the Class may file a written objection to the proposed Settlement and show cause why the proposed Settlement of the Litigation should or should not be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, why a judgment should or should not be entered thereon, why the Plan of Allocation should or should not be approved, or why attorneys' fees and expenses should or should not be awarded to Plaintiff's Counsel or to Plaintiff, provided, however, that no Class Member or any other Person shall be heard or entitled to contest such matters, unless that Person has delivered by hand or sent by First-Class Mail written objections and copies of any papers and briefs such that they are received, not simply postmarked, on or before _____, 2023 (a date that is twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing), by Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, Attn: Ellen Gusikoff Stewart, 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101; and King & Spalding LLP, Attn: Jessica P. Corley, Lisa R. Bugni, 1180 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30309; and filed said objections, papers, and briefs with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division, Fred D. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 719 Church Street, Suite 1300, Nashville, TN 37203, on or before _____, 2023 (a date that is twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing). Any Class Member who does not make his, her, or its objection in the manner provided herein and in the Notice shall be deemed to have waived such objection and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the

fairness or adequacy of the proposed Settlement as set forth in the Stipulation, to the Plan of Allocation, or to the award of attorneys' fees and expenses to Plaintiff's Counsel or expenses of Plaintiff, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Attendance at the Settlement Hearing is not necessary. However, Persons wishing to be heard orally in opposition to the approval of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the award of attorneys' fees and expenses to Plaintiff's Counsel are required to indicate in their written objection their intention to appear at the Settlement Hearing. Class Members do not need to appear at the Settlement Hearing or take any action if they do not oppose any aspect of the Settlement.

17. Any objections, filings, and other submissions by an objecting Class Member must: (i) state the name, address, and telephone number of the Person objecting and must be signed by the objector; (ii) contain a statement of the Class Member's objection or objections, and the specific reasons for each objection, including any legal and evidentiary support the Class Member wishes to bring to the Court's attention and whether the objection applies only to the objector, a specific subset of the Class, or to the entire Class; (iii) include documents sufficient to prove membership in the Class, including the objecting Class Member's purchases, other acquisitions, and sales of AAC common stock during the Class Period, including the dates and the number of shares purchased, acquired, or sold, and the price paid or received for each such purchase, acquisition, or sale; and (iv) identify all class action settlements to which the objector and his, her, or its counsel have previously objected.

18. Any Class Member who does not object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or the application for an award of attorneys' fees, costs, charges, and expenses in the manner prescribed herein and in the Notice shall be deemed to have waived such objection, and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness, adequacy, or reasonableness of the proposed

Settlement, this Order and the Judgment to be entered approving the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the application by Class Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees together with costs, charges, and expenses.

19. All funds held by the Escrow Agent shall be deemed and considered to be *in custodia legis* of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as such funds shall be distributed pursuant to the Stipulation and/or further order(s) of the Court.

20. All opening briefs and supporting documents in support of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and any application by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and expenses shall be filed and served by _____, 2023 (a date that is thirty-five (35) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing). Replies to any objections shall be filed and served by _____, 2023 (a date that is seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing).

21. Neither the Defendants and their Related Parties nor Defendants' Counsel shall have any responsibility for the Plan of Allocation or any application for attorneys' fees or expenses submitted by Plaintiff's Counsel or expenses of Plaintiff, and such matters will be considered separately from the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement. Any order or proceeding relating to the Plan of Allocation or any application for attorneys' fees or expenses, or any appeal from any order relating thereto or reversal or modification thereof, shall not operate to terminate or cancel the Stipulation, or affect or delay the finality of the Judgment and the settlement of the Litigation.

22. At or after the Settlement Hearing, the Court shall determine whether the Plan of Allocation proposed by Class Counsel, and any application for attorneys' fees or payment of expenses shall be approved.

23. All reasonable expenses incurred in identifying and notifying potential Class Members, as well as administering the Settlement Fund, shall be paid as set forth in the Stipulation. In the event the Settlement is not approved by the Court, or otherwise fails to become effective, neither Plaintiff nor any of its counsel shall have any obligation to repay any amounts incurred and properly disbursed pursuant to ¶¶2.9 or 2.11 of the Stipulation.

24. Neither the Stipulation, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by Defendants as to the validity of any claims or as to the truth of any of the allegations in the Litigation, or of any liability, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind.

25. If the Stipulation and the Settlement set forth therein is not approved or consummated for any reason whatsoever, this Order shall be rendered null and void, and be of no further force and effect, except as otherwise provided by the Stipulation. This Order, the Stipulation, and the Settlement and all proceedings had in connection therewith shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Settling Parties *status quo ante* as of April 5, 2023.

26. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all proceedings in the Litigation are stayed, except as may be necessary to implement the Settlement or comply with the terms of the Stipulation or other agreement of the Settling Parties. Pending final determination of whether the proposed Settlement should be approved, neither Plaintiff nor any Class Member, directly or indirectly, representatively, or in any other capacity, shall commence or prosecute against any of the Defendants, any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal asserting any of the Released Claims.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____

THE HONORABLE ELI RICHARDSON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

EXHIBIT A-1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

INDIANA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM,) Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407
Individually and on Behalf of All Others)
Similarly Situated,) CLASS ACTION
)
Plaintiff,) Judge Eli J. Richardson
) Magistrate Judge Alistair E. Newbern
vs.)
) NOTICE OF PENDENCY AND PROPOSED
MICHAEL T. CARTWRIGHT, KIRK R.) SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION
MANZ and ANDREW W. McWILLIAMS,)
) EXHIBIT A-1
Defendants.)
)
_____)

TO: ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES WHO PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED THE COMMON STOCK OF AAC HOLDINGS, INC. (“AAC” OR THE “COMPANY”) BETWEEN MARCH 8, 2017 AND APRIL 15, 2019, INCLUSIVE (“CLASS” OR “CLASS MEMBERS”)

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY PROCEEDINGS IN THIS LITIGATION. PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO SHARE IN THE PROCEEDS OF THE SETTLEMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE. TO CLAIM YOUR SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS, YOU MUST SUBMIT A VALID PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE FORM (“PROOF OF CLAIM”) **POSTMARKED OR SUBMITTED ONLINE ON OR BEFORE _____, 2023.**

THIS NOTICE WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE COURT. IT IS NOT A LAWYER SOLICITATION.

This Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action (“Notice”) has been sent to you pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Order of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (the “Court”). The purpose of this Notice is to inform you of (i) the pendency of this class action (the “Litigation”) between Indiana Public Retirement System (“Plaintiff”) and Michael T. Cartwright, Kirk R. Manz, and Andrew McWilliams (“Defendants”); (ii) the proposed \$3,750,000 settlement reached therein (the “Settlement”); and (iii) the hearing (the “Settlement Hearing”) to be held by the Court to consider the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement, as set forth in the Stipulation of

Settlement dated May 17, 2023 (the “Stipulation”), by and between Plaintiff and Defendants (the “Settling Parties”). This Notice describes what steps you may take in relation to the Settlement and this class action.¹

This Notice is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an expression of any opinion by the Court with respect to the truth of the allegations in the Litigation as to any of the Defendants or the merits of the claims or defenses asserted by or against the Defendants. This Notice is solely to advise you of the proposed Settlement of the Litigation and of your rights in connection therewith.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	The only way to be eligible to receive a payment from the Settlement. Proof of Claim forms must be postmarked or submitted online on or before _____, 2023.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE CLASS	Get no payment. This is the only option that <i>potentially</i> allows you to ever be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendants or any other Released Persons about the legal claims being resolved by this Settlement. Should you elect to exclude yourself from the Class you should understand that Defendants and the other Released Defendant Parties will have the right to assert any and all defenses they may have to any claims that you may seek to assert, including, without limitation, the defense that any such claims are untimely under applicable statutes of limitations and statutes of repose. Exclusions must be postmarked on or before _____, 2023.
OBJECT	Write to the Court about why you do not like the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the request for attorneys’ fees and expenses. You will still be a Member of the Class. Objections must be received on or before _____, 2023. If you submit a written objection, you may (but do not have to) attend the hearing.
GO TO THE HEARING ON _____, 2023	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement. Requests to speak must be received by the Court and counsel on or before _____, 2023.
DO NOTHING	Receive no payment. You will, however, still be a Member of the Class, which means that you give up your right to ever be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendants or any other Released Defendant Parties about the legal claims being resolved by this Settlement and you will be bound by any judgments or orders entered by the Court in the Litigation.

¹ All capitalized terms used in this Notice that are not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings provided in the Stipulation, which is available on the website www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

SUMMARY OF THIS NOTICE

Statement of Class Recovery

Pursuant to the Settlement described herein, a \$3.75 million settlement fund has been established. Based on Plaintiff's estimate of the number of allegedly damaged shares eligible to recover under the Settlement, the average distribution per common share under the Plan of Allocation is approximately \$0.18, before deduction of any taxes on the income earned on the Settlement Amount, notice and administration costs, and the attorneys' fees and expenses as determined by the Court. **Class Members should note, however, that these are only estimates.** A Class Member's actual recovery will be a proportion of the Net Settlement Fund determined by that claimant's claims as compared to the total claims of all Class Members who submit acceptable Proofs of Claim. An individual Class Member may receive more or less than these estimated average amounts. See Plan of Allocation set forth and discussed at pages ___ below for more information on the calculation of your claim.

Statement of Potential Outcome of Case

The Settling Parties disagree on both liability and damages and do not agree on the amount of damages that would be recoverable if the Class prevailed on each or any claim alleged. Defendants deny that they are liable to the Class and deny that the Class has suffered any damages. The issues on which the parties disagree are many, but include: (1) whether Defendants engaged in conduct that would give rise to any liability to the Class under the federal securities laws; (2) whether Defendants have valid defenses to any such claims of liability; (3) the appropriate economic model for determining the amount by which the price of AAC common stock was allegedly artificially inflated (if at all) during the relevant period; (4) the amount, if any, by which the price of AAC common stock was allegedly artificially inflated (if at all) during the relevant period; (5) the effect of various market forces on the price of AAC common stock at various times during the relevant period; (6) the extent to which external factors influenced the price of AAC common stock at various times during the relevant period; (7) the extent to which the matters that Plaintiff alleged were materially false or misleading influenced (if at all) the price of AAC common stock at various times during the relevant period; and (8) the extent to which the various allegedly adverse material facts that Plaintiff alleged were omitted influenced (if at all) the price of AAC common stock at various times during the relevant period.

Statement of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses Sought

Since the Litigation's inception, Plaintiff's Counsel have expended considerable time and effort in the prosecution of this Litigation on a wholly contingent basis and have advanced the expenses of the Litigation in the expectation that if they were successful in obtaining a recovery for the Class, they would be paid from such recovery. Class Counsel will apply to the Court on behalf of all Plaintiff's Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees not to exceed 17% of the Settlement Amount, plus expenses not to exceed \$695,000, plus interest earned on both amounts at the same rate as earned by the Settlement Fund. If the amounts requested are approved by the Court, the average cost per AAC common stock will be approximately \$0.06. In addition, Plaintiff may seek payment for its time and expenses incurred in representing the Class.

Further Information

For further information regarding the Litigation, this Notice or to review the Stipulation of Settlement, please contact the Claims Administrator toll-free at 866-753-8854, or visit the website www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

You may also contact a representative of counsel for the Class: Greg Wood, Shareholder Relations, Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101, 1-800-449-4900, settlementinfo@rgrdlaw.com.

Please Do Not Call the Court, AAC, or Defendants with Questions About the Settlement.

Reasons for the Settlement

Plaintiff's principal reason for entering into the Settlement is the benefit to the Class now, without further risk or the delays inherent in continued litigation. The cash benefit under the Settlement must be considered against the significant risk that a smaller recovery – or, indeed, no recovery at all – might be achieved after contested motions, trial, and likely appeals, a process that could last several years into the future. For the Defendants, who have denied and continue to deny all allegations of liability, fault, or wrongdoing whatsoever, the principal reason for entering into the Settlement is to eliminate the uncertainty, risk, costs, and burdens inherent in any litigation, especially in complex cases such as this Litigation. Defendants have concluded that further conduct of this Litigation could be protracted and distracting.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I get this Notice package?

This Notice was sent to you pursuant to an Order of a U.S. District Court because you or someone in your family or an investment account for which you serve as custodian may have purchased or otherwise acquired AAC common stock during the period from March 8, 2017 through and including April 15, 2019 (the "Class Period").

This Notice explains the class action lawsuit, the Settlement, Class Members' legal rights in connection with the Settlement, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them.

The Court in charge of the Litigation is the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division, and the case is known as *Indiana Public Retirement System v. Cartwright, et al.*, Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407. The case has been assigned to the Honorable Eli Richardson. The entity representing the Class is the "Plaintiff," and the individuals it sued and who have now settled are called the Defendants.

2. What is this lawsuit about?

The initial complaint in the Litigation was filed on May 16, 2019. On August 13, 2019, the Court appointed Indiana Public Retirement System as Lead Plaintiff and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP as Lead Counsel.

On November 4, 2019, Plaintiff filed the operative Complaint, alleging violations of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”).

Specifically, Plaintiff alleged that throughout the alleged Class Period (March 8, 2017 through April 15, 2019, inclusive), AAC,² a for-profit healthcare company operating addiction treatment centers, transitional “sober living” services, and drug testing services, and certain of its executives engaged in a fraudulent scheme, made materially false and misleading statements, and/or failed to disclose that: (1) to fill beds in its treatment centers, the Company had operated deceptive websites that appeared to give unbiased, reliable advice about addiction and treatment facilities, but in fact were set up to recruit people to AAC facilities; and (2) AAC had fraudulently inflated its accounts receivable, and thus overstated its reported net income and/or understated the net losses it reported to investors during the Class Period. Plaintiff further alleged that Defendants’ allegedly fraudulent misconduct and false and misleading statements caused AAC common stock to trade at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period until the true nature of Defendants’ alleged wrongdoing was disclosed, and the price of AAC common stock fell, causing damages to Plaintiff and other Members of the Class.

On January 13, 2020, Plaintiff filed a supplement to the Complaint alleging that Defendants had concealed a Securities and Exchange Commission subpoena and investigation concerning AAC’s accounts receivable, restatements, and accounting policies. Plaintiff filed a second supplement to the Complaint on February 5, 2020, to add new allegations regarding defendant Michael Cartwright’s resignation as AAC’s Chief Executive Officer on January 24, 2020.

On February 12, 2020, Defendants moved to dismiss the Complaint. On April 10, 2020, Plaintiff filed its opposition to Defendants’ motion to dismiss. On May 12, 2020, Defendants filed their reply brief. On April 8, 2021, the Court denied Defendants’ motion.

On July 6, 2021, Plaintiff moved to certify the class. Defendants filed their opposition on September 7, 2021, and Plaintiff filed its reply on June 13, 2022. After the Court granted leave for Defendants to file a sur-reply on the class certification motion, Defendants filed their sur-reply on July 20, 2022. On February 24, 2023, the Court granted in part and denied in part Plaintiff’s motion for class certification. Plaintiff moved for reconsideration of the class certification order on March 10, 2023. Defendants opposed that motion on March 27, 2023, and Plaintiff filed its reply on April 3, 2023. The motion remained pending when the parties notified the Court on April 5, 2023, that they had reached a settlement in principle.

The parties conducted extensive fact and expert discovery, and litigated a number of discovery disputes, including through formal motion practice and informal discovery conferences

² AAC was dismissed without prejudice on April 29, 2021, following AAC’s bankruptcy.

before the Magistrate Judge. In all, Defendants, AAC, and third parties produced more than 430,000 pages of documents, and the parties conducted 23 fact and expert depositions.

On September 23, 2021, Plaintiff and Defendants participated in a voluntary confidential mediation with Gregory P. Lindstrom, Esq., of Phillips ADR, an experienced mediator. The mediation was preceded by submission of mediation statements by the Settling Parties. The Settling Parties engaged in good faith negotiations but did not reach a settlement. The Settling Parties engaged in two follow-up mediation sessions with Mr. Lindstrom on February 16 and May 5, 2022, and the Settling Parties submitted supplemental mediation statements, but the Settling Parties still did not reach a settlement. Following the mediation sessions and while continuing to litigate the case, the parties continued settlement discussions through Mr. Lindstrom. On April 5, 2023, the parties agreed to settle the Litigation in return for a cash payment of \$3,750,000 for the benefit of the Class, subject to the negotiation of the terms of a Stipulation of Settlement and approval by the Court. The Stipulation (together with the Exhibits thereto) reflects the final and binding agreement among the Settling Parties.

Defendants deny each and all of the claims and contentions of wrongdoing alleged by Plaintiff in the Litigation. Defendants contend that they did not make any materially false or misleading statements, that they did not engage in a fraudulent scheme, that they disclosed all material information required by the federal securities laws, and that they at all times acted in good faith. Defendants also contend that any losses allegedly suffered by Members of the Class were not caused by any allegedly fraudulent scheme, or false or misleading statements by them and/or were caused by intervening events. Defendants also maintain that they have meritorious defenses to all claims that were raised or could have been raised in the Litigation.

3. Why is there a settlement?

The Court has not decided in favor of Defendants or of the Plaintiff. Instead, both sides agreed to the Settlement to avoid the distraction, costs, and risks of further litigation, and Plaintiff agreed to the Settlement in order to ensure that Class Members will receive compensation.

WHO IS IN THE SETTLEMENT

4. How do I know if I am a Member of the Class?

The Court directed that everyone who fits this description is a Class Member: all Persons who purchased or otherwise acquired the common stock of AAC between March 8, 2017 and April 15, 2019, inclusive (the “Class Period”). Excluded from the Class are AAC, Michael T. Cartwright, Kirk R. Manz, Andrew McWilliams and members of their respective immediate families, any entity of which any of them has a controlling interest and the legal representatives, heirs, predecessors, successors or assigns of any of them. Also excluded from the Class is any Person who would otherwise be a Member of the Class but who validly and timely requests exclusion in accordance with the requirements set by the Court.

Please Note: Receipt of this Notice does not mean that you are a Class Member or that you will be entitled to receive a payment from the Settlement. If you are a Class Member and you wish to be eligible to participate in the distribution of proceeds from the Settlement, you are required to

submit the Proof of Claim that is being distributed with this Notice and the required supporting documentation as set forth therein postmarked or submitted online on or before _____, 2023.

5. What if I am still not sure if I am included?

If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can ask for free help. You can contact the Claims Administrator toll-free at 866-753-8854, or you can fill out and return the Proof of Claim form enclosed with this Notice package to see if you qualify.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS – WHAT YOU GET

6. What does the Settlement provide?

The Settlement provides that, in exchange for the release of the Released Claims (defined below) and dismissal of the Litigation, Defendants have agreed to pay (or cause to be paid) \$3.75 million in cash to be distributed after taxes, tax expenses, notice and claims administration expenses, and approved fees and expenses, *pro rata*, to Class Members who send in a valid Proof of Claim form pursuant to the Court-approved Plan of Allocation. The Plan of Allocation is described in more detail at the end of this Notice.

7. How much will my payment be?

Your share of the Net Settlement Fund will depend on several things, including the total dollar amount of claims represented by the valid Proof of Claim forms that Class Members send in, compared to the dollar amount of your claim, all as calculated under the Plan of Allocation discussed below.

HOW YOU GET A PAYMENT – SUBMITTING A CLAIM FORM

8. How can I get a payment?

To be eligible to receive a payment from the Settlement, you must submit a Proof of Claim form. A Proof of Claim form is enclosed with this Notice or it may be downloaded at www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com. Read the instructions carefully, fill out the Proof of Claim, include all the documents the form asks for, sign it, and **mail or submit it online so that it is postmarked or received no later than _____, 2023**. The Proof of Claim form may be submitted online at www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

9. When would I get my payment?

The Court will hold a Settlement Hearing on _____, 2023, at _____m., to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, there might be appeals. It is always uncertain whether appeals can be resolved, and if so, how long it would take to resolve them. It also takes time for all the Proofs of Claim to be processed. Please be patient.

10. What am I giving up to get a payment or to stay in the Class?

Unless you timely and validly exclude yourself in connection with this Settlement, you are in the Class, and that means you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants or their Related Parties about the Released Claims (as defined below) in this case. It also means that all of the Court's orders will apply to you and legally bind you. If you remain a Class Member, and if the Settlement is approved, you will give up all "Released Claims" (as defined below), including "Unknown Claims" (as defined below), against the "Released Persons" (as defined below):

- "Released Claims" means any and all claims and causes of action of every nature and description, whether known or unknown, asserted or unasserted, accrued or unaccrued, fixed or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, whether arising under federal, state, common, or foreign law or any other law, rule or regulation, whether class or individual in nature, arising out of, relating to or in connection with both: (i) the purchase and/or other acquisition of AAC common stock during the period March 8, 2017 through April 15, 2019, inclusive; and (ii) the facts, matters, events, transactions, acts, occurrences, statements, representations, misrepresentations and/or omissions that were or could have been alleged in the Litigation. "Released Claims" does not include claims to enforce the Settlement, or the claims of any Person who submits a request for exclusion in connection with this Settlement. "Released Claims" includes "Unknown Claims" as defined below.
- "Released Defendants' Claims" means any and all claims and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, against Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, or any Class Member that arise out of or relate in any way to the institution, prosecution, or settlement of the claims against Defendants in the Litigation, except for claims relating to the enforcement of the Settlement.
- "Related Parties" means each Defendant's respective immediate family members, spouses, heirs, estates, executors, trusts, trustees, administrators, agents, legal or personal representatives, attorneys, insurers, principals, employees, auditors, accountants, advisors, assigns, and assignees of each of them, in their capacity as such; and AAC and its past or present trustees, executors, administrators, officers, directors, partners, members, employees, contractors, auditors, accountants, advisors (including financial advisors or consultants), principals, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, assigns, representatives, affiliates, joint venturers, shareholders, underwriters, insurers, personal or legal representatives, estates, financial advisors or consultants, banks or investment bankers, parents, subsidiaries, general or limited partners or partnerships, and limited liability companies.
- "Released Defendant Party" or "Released Defendant Parties" or "Released Persons" mean Defendants, their Related Parties, and Defendants' Counsel.
- "Unknown Claims" means (a) any and all Released Claims which any of the Releasing Plaintiff Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at

the time of the release of the Released Defendant Parties, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement with and release of the Released Defendant Parties, or might have affected his, her, or its decision(s) with respect to the Settlement, including, but not limited to, whether or not to object to this Settlement or seek exclusion from the Class; and (b) any and all Released Defendants' Claims that any of the Released Defendant Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement and release of Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel. With respect to (a) any and all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, and (b) any and all Released Defendants' Claims against Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel, the Settling Parties stipulate and agree that, upon the Effective Date, the Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have expressly waived, the provisions, rights, and benefits of California Civil Code §1542, which provides:

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

The Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, expressly waived any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to California Civil Code §1542. The Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties acknowledge that they may hereafter discover facts, legal theories, or authorities in addition to or different from those which he, she, it, or their counsel now knows or believes to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims or Released Defendants' Claims, but (a) the Releasing Plaintiff Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish, and release, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party shall be deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, accrued or unaccrued, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, or may hereafter exist, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law, or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities, and (b) the Released Defendant Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish, and release, and each Released Defendant Party shall be

deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Defendants' Claims against Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities. The Settling Parties acknowledge, and the Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties shall be deemed by operation of the Judgment to have acknowledged, that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and is an essential element of the Settlement of which this release is a part.

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE CLASS

If you do not want to participate in this Settlement, and you want to keep the right to potentially sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons, on your own, about the claims being released by the Settlement, then you must take steps to remove yourself from the Settlement. This is called excluding yourself – or is sometimes referred to as “opting out.” If you are requesting exclusion because you want to bring your own lawsuit based on the matters alleged in this Litigation, you may want to consult an attorney and discuss whether any individual claim that you may wish to pursue would be time-barred by the applicable statutes of limitation or repose. Also, Defendants may terminate the Settlement and render it null and void in the event that Persons who would otherwise be Members of the Class who collectively purchased a certain number of shares of AAC common stock exclude themselves from the Class.

11. How do I get out of the Class and the proposed Settlement?

To exclude yourself from the Class and the Settlement, you must send a letter by First-Class Mail stating that you “request exclusion from the Class in the *AAC Securities Litigation*.” Your letter must include your purchases or other acquisitions of AAC common stock during the Class Period, including the dates and number of shares of AAC common stock purchased or otherwise acquired, and price paid for each such purchase or other acquisition. In addition, you must include your name, address, telephone number, and your signature. You must submit your exclusion request so that it is **postmarked no later than _____, 2023** to:

AAC Securities Litigation
Claims Administrator
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
EXCLUSIONS
P.O. Box 5100
Larkspur, CA 94977-5100

If you ask to be excluded, you will not get any payment from the Settlement, and you cannot object to the Settlement. You will not be legally bound by anything that happens in this lawsuit, and

you may be able to sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons about the Released Claims in the future, if such claims are not time-barred.

12. If I do not exclude myself, can I sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons for the same thing later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any rights you may potentially have to sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons for any and all Released Claims. If you have a pending lawsuit against the Released Persons, speak to your lawyer in that case immediately. You must exclude yourself from the Class in this Litigation to continue your own lawsuit. Remember, the exclusion deadline is _____, 2023.

13. If I exclude myself, can I get money from the proposed Settlement?

No. If you exclude yourself, you should not send in a Proof of Claim to ask for any money. But you may have the right to potentially sue or be part of a different lawsuit against the Defendants and the other Released Persons.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

14. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

The Court ordered that the law firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP represents the Class Members, including you. These lawyers are called Class Counsel. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

15. How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees not to exceed 17% of the Settlement Amount and for expenses, costs and charges in an amount not to exceed \$695,000 in connection with the Litigation, plus interest on such fees and expenses at the same rate as earned by the Settlement Fund. In addition, Plaintiff may seek up to \$25,000 for its time and expenses incurred in representing the Class. Such sums as may be approved by the Court will be paid from the Settlement Fund.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

You can tell the Court that you do not agree with the Settlement or any part of it.

16. How do I tell the Court that I object to the proposed Settlement?

If you are a Class Member, you can comment on or object to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation and/or Plaintiff's Counsel's fee and expense application. You can write to the Court setting out your comment or objection. The Court will consider your views. To comment or object, you must send a signed letter saying that you wish to comment on or object to the proposed Settlement in the *AAC Securities Litigation*. Include your name, address, telephone number, and your signature, identify the date(s), price(s), and number of shares purchased, acquired,

or sold of AAC common stock during the Class Period, and state with specificity your comments or the reasons why you object to the proposed Settlement, Plan of Allocation and/or fee and expense application, including any legal and evidentiary support for such objection. Any objection must state whether it applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the Class, or to the entire Class. In addition, the objector must identify all class action settlements to which the objector or his, her, or its counsel have previously objected. You must also include copies of documents demonstrating your purchases, other acquisitions, and/or sales of AAC common stock during the Class Period. Your comments or objection must be filed with the Court and mailed or delivered to each of the following addresses such that it is *received no later than* _____, 2023:

COURT	PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL	DEFENDANTS' COUNSEL
CLERK OF THE COURT UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE DIVISION Fred D. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building 719 Church Street, Suite 1300 Nashville, TN 37203	ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP Attn: Ellen Gusikoff Stewart 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900 San Diego, CA 92101	KING & SPALDING LLP Attn: Jessica P. Corley Lisa R. Bugni 1180 Peachtree Street, NE Suite 1600 Atlanta, GA 30309

17. What is the difference between objecting and excluding?

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlement. You can object **only** if you stay in the Class.

Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you do not want to be paid and do not want to release any claims you think you may have against Defendants and their Related Parties. If you exclude yourself, you cannot object to the Settlement because it does not affect you.

THE COURT'S SETTLEMENT HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed Settlement. You may attend and you may ask to speak, but you do not have to.

18. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the proposed Settlement?

The Court will hold a Settlement Hearing at _____.m., on _____, 2023, in the Courtroom of the Honorable Eli Richardson, at the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division, Fred D. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, Courtroom 5C, 719 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203. At the hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement and the Plan of Allocation are fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them, even if you do not ask to speak at the hearing. The Court

will listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing. The Court may also decide how much to pay to Class Counsel and Plaintiff. At or after the Settlement Hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement and the Plan of Allocation. We do not know how long these decisions will take. You should be aware that the Court may change the date, time, and location of the Settlement Hearing without another notice being sent to Class Members.

There exists the possibility that the Court may decide to conduct the Settlement Hearing by video or telephonic conference, or otherwise allow Class Members to appear at the hearing by phone or video conference, without further written notice to the Class. **In order to determine whether the date and time of the Settlement Hearing have changed, or whether Class Members must or may participate by phone or video, it is important that you monitor the Court's docket or the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com, before making any plans to attend the Settlement Hearing. Any updates regarding the Settlement Hearing, including any changes to the date and time of the hearing or updates regarding in-person or remote appearances at the hearing, will be posted to the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com. Also, if the Court requires or allows Class Members to participate in the Settlement Hearing by telephone or video conference, the information for accessing the hearing will be posted to the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.** If you want to attend the hearing, either in person or remotely, if permitted, you should check with Class Counsel or the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com, beforehand to be sure that the date and/or time has not changed.

19. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer questions the Court may have. But, you are welcome to come at your own expense. If you are a Class Member and send an objection, you do not have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you are a Class Member and mailed your complete written objection on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend, but it is not necessary. Class Members do not need to appear at the hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval.

20. May I speak at the hearing?

If you object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the fee and expense application, you may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Settlement Hearing. To do so, you must include with your objection (*see* question 16 above) a statement saying that it is your "Notice of Intention to Appear in the *AAC Securities Litigation*." Persons who intend to object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or any attorneys' fees and expenses to be awarded to Plaintiff's Counsel or Plaintiff and desire to present evidence at the Settlement Hearing must include in their written objections the identity of any witnesses they may call to testify and exhibits they intend to introduce into evidence at the Settlement Hearing. Your notice of intention to appear must be **received no later than** _____, **2023**, and addressed to the Clerk of Court, Class Counsel, and Defendants' Counsel, at the addresses listed above in question 16.

You cannot speak at the hearing if you exclude yourself from the Class.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

21. What happens if I do nothing?

If you do nothing, you will not receive any money from this Settlement. In addition, unless you exclude yourself, you will not be able to start a lawsuit, continue with a lawsuit, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants and their Related Parties about the Released Claims in this case.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

22. How do I get more information?

For even more detailed information concerning the matters involved in this Litigation, you can obtain answers to common questions regarding the proposed Settlement by contacting the Claims Administrator toll-free at 866-753-8854. Reference is also made to the Stipulation, to the pleadings in support of the Settlement, to the Orders entered by the Court and to the other settlement related papers filed in the Litigation, which are posted on the Settlement website at www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com, and which may be inspected at the Office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division, during regular business hours. For a fee, all papers filed in this Litigation are available at www.pacer.gov.

THE PROPOSED PLAN OF ALLOCATION OF NET SETTLEMENT FUND AMONG CLASS MEMBERS

23. How will my claim be calculated?

As discussed above, the Settlement provides \$3,750,000.00 in cash for the benefit of the Class. The Settlement Amount and any interest it earns constitute the “Settlement Fund.” The Settlement Fund, after deduction of Court-approved attorneys’ fees and expenses, Notice and Administration Expenses, Taxes, and any other fees or expenses approved by the Court, is the “Net Settlement Fund.” If the Settlement is approved by the Court, the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to eligible Authorized Claimants – *i.e.*, Members of the Class who timely submit valid Proofs of Claim that are accepted for payment by the Court – in accordance with this proposed Plan of Allocation (“Plan of Allocation” or “Plan”) or such other plan of allocation as the Court may approve. Class Members who do not timely submit valid Proofs of Claim will not share in the Net Settlement Fund but will otherwise be bound by the Settlement. The Court may approve this proposed Plan of Allocation, or modify it, without additional notice to the Class. Any order modifying the Plan of Allocation will be posted on the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

The objective of the Plan of Allocation is to distribute the Settlement proceeds equitably among those Class Members who allegedly suffered economic losses as a proximate result of the alleged wrongdoing. The Plan of Allocation is not a formal damage analysis, and the calculations made in accordance with the Plan of Allocation are not necessarily intended to be estimates of, or indicative of, the amounts that Class Members might have been able to recover after a trial. Nor are the calculations in accordance with the Plan of Allocation intended to be estimates of the amounts

that will be paid to Authorized Claimants under the Settlement. The computations under the Plan of Allocation are only a method to weigh, in a fair and equitable manner, the claims of Authorized Claimants against one another for the purpose of making *pro rata* allocations of the Net Settlement Fund.

The Plan of Allocation is intended to compensate Class Members who purchased or otherwise acquired AAC common stock during the Class Period. In developing the Plan of Allocation, Class Counsel estimated the amount of alleged artificial inflation in the price of AAC stock that was allegedly proximately caused by Defendants’ scheme to defraud and materially false and misleading statements and omissions, as well as the declines in AAC’s stock price when the alleged fraud, and the circumstances concealed by the alleged fraud, were revealed. The Plan of Allocation also specifically accounts for: (i) Plaintiff’s theory of liability with respect to the so-called Marketing Claim; (ii) the risk that the Court would not certify the so-called Marketing Claim and/or deny Plaintiff’s motion for reconsideration that was pending at the time of the settlement; and (iii) the fact that Plaintiff had not moved to certify a Class Period beyond November 5, 2018, at the time of the settlement.

Your share of the Net Settlement Fund will depend on the number of valid Proofs of Claim that Class Members send in and how many shares of AAC common stock you purchased or otherwise acquired during the Class Period, and whether and when you sold any of those shares.

To the extent there are sufficient funds in the Net Settlement Fund, each claimant will receive an amount equal to the claimant’s “Recognized Loss,” as described below. If, however, as expected, the amount in the Net Settlement Fund is not sufficient to permit payment of the total Recognized Loss of each claimant, then each claimant shall be paid the percentage of the Net Settlement Fund that each claimant’s Recognized Loss bears to the total of the Recognized Loss of all claimants – *i.e.*, the claimant’s *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund.

For each purchase or other acquisition of AAC common stock that is properly documented, a “Recognized Loss” will be calculated according to the formulas described below. The allocation below is based on the following inflation per share amounts for Class Period share purchases and sales as well as the statutory PSLRA 90 day-look back amount of \$1.24. Furthermore, if any of the formulas set forth below yield an amount less than \$0.00, the Recognized Loss Amount is zero.

Inflation Period	Inflation per share
March 8, 2017 – May 3, 2017	\$3.09
May 4, 2017 – August 2, 2017	\$3.29
August 3, 2017 – November 1, 2017	\$2.97
November 2, 2017 – February 21, 2018	\$2.82
February 22, 2018 – May 2, 2018	\$2.79
May 3, 2018 – August 1, 2018	\$2.66
August 2, 2018 – November 5, 2018	\$2.49
November 6, 2018 – March 12, 2019	\$1.07
March 13, 2019 – March 31, 2019	\$0.27

April 1, 2019 – April 15, 2019	\$0.53
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For AAC shares *purchased, or acquired, on or between March 8, 2017 through and including November 5, 2018*, the claim per share shall be as follows:

- a) If sold prior to November 6, 2018, the claim per share is \$0.00.
- b) If sold on or between November 6, 2018 through April 15, 2019, the claim per share shall be the lesser of: (i) the inflation per share at the time of purchase less the inflation per share at the time of sale; and (ii) the difference between the purchase price and the selling price.
- c) If retained at the end of April 15, 2019 and sold on or before July 12, 2019, the claim per share shall be the least of: (i) the inflation per share at the time of purchase; (ii) the difference between the purchase price and the selling price; and (iii) the difference between the purchase price and the average closing price up to the date of sale as set forth in Table A below.
- d) If retained at the end of July 12, 2019, or sold thereafter, the claim per share shall be the lesser of: (i) the inflation per share at the time of purchase; and (ii) the difference between the purchase price and \$1.24.

For AAC shares *purchased, or acquired, on or between November 6, 2018 through and including April 15, 2019*, the claim per share shall be as follows:

- a) If sold prior to April 16, 2019, the claim per share shall be the lesser of: (i) fifty percent of the inflation per share at the time of purchase less fifty percent of the inflation per share at the time of sale; and (ii) the difference between the purchase price and the selling price.
- b) If retained at the end of April 15, 2019 and sold on or before July 12, 2019, the claim per share shall be the least of: (i) fifty percent of the inflation per share at the time of purchase; (ii) the difference between the purchase price and the selling price; and (iii) the difference between the purchase price and the average closing price up to the date of sale as set forth in Table A below.
- c) If retained at the end of July 12, 2019, or sold thereafter, the claim per share shall be the lesser of: (i) fifty percent of the inflation per share at the time of purchase; and (ii) the difference between the purchase price and \$1.24.

Table A

Date	Price	Average Closing Price
16-Apr-19	\$1.74	\$1.74
17-Apr-19	\$1.74	\$1.74
18-Apr-19	\$1.56	\$1.68
22-Apr-19	\$1.46	\$1.63
23-Apr-19	\$1.62	\$1.62
24-Apr-19	\$1.54	\$1.61
25-Apr-19	\$1.57	\$1.60
26-Apr-19	\$1.64	\$1.61
29-Apr-19	\$1.72	\$1.62
30-Apr-19	\$1.61	\$1.62
1-May-19	\$1.63	\$1.62
2-May-19	\$1.62	\$1.62
3-May-19	\$1.97	\$1.65
6-May-19	\$1.97	\$1.67
7-May-19	\$1.99	\$1.69
8-May-19	\$1.86	\$1.70
9-May-19	\$1.90	\$1.71
10-May-19	\$1.73	\$1.72
13-May-19	\$1.67	\$1.71
14-May-19	\$1.54	\$1.70
15-May-19	\$1.65	\$1.70
16-May-19	\$1.69	\$1.70
17-May-19	\$1.45	\$1.69
20-May-19	\$1.39	\$1.68
21-May-19	\$1.28	\$1.66
22-May-19	\$1.16	\$1.64
23-May-19	\$1.30	\$1.63
24-May-19	\$1.10	\$1.61
28-May-19	\$1.24	\$1.60
29-May-19	\$1.11	\$1.58
30-May-19	\$1.06	\$1.56
31-May-19	\$0.90	\$1.54
3-Jun-19	\$1.01	\$1.53
4-Jun-19	\$1.05	\$1.51
5-Jun-19	\$0.99	\$1.50
6-Jun-19	\$0.91	\$1.48
7-Jun-19	\$0.92	\$1.47

10-Jun-19	\$0.82	\$1.45
11-Jun-19	\$0.79	\$1.43
12-Jun-19	\$0.73	\$1.42
13-Jun-19	\$0.74	\$1.40
14-Jun-19	\$0.70	\$1.38
17-Jun-19	\$0.72	\$1.37
18-Jun-19	\$0.69	\$1.35
19-Jun-19	\$0.67	\$1.34
20-Jun-19	\$0.66	\$1.32
21-Jun-19	\$0.70	\$1.31
24-Jun-19	\$0.70	\$1.30
25-Jun-19	\$0.79	\$1.29
26-Jun-19	\$0.86	\$1.28
27-Jun-19	\$0.83	\$1.27
28-Jun-19	\$0.86	\$1.26
1-Jul-19	\$0.90	\$1.25
2-Jul-19	\$1.03	\$1.25
3-Jul-19	\$1.09	\$1.25
5-Jul-19	\$1.08	\$1.24
8-Jul-19	\$1.19	\$1.24
9-Jul-19	\$1.26	\$1.24
10-Jul-19	\$1.24	\$1.24
11-Jul-19	\$1.27	\$1.24
12-Jul-19	\$1.20	\$1.24

In the event a Class Member held AAC common stock prior to the Class Period or has more than one purchase or other acquisition or sale of AAC common stock during the Class Period, all such purchases, acquisitions, and sales shall be matched by security on a First-In, First-Out (“FIFO”) basis. Under the FIFO method, any sales of AAC common stock made after commencement of the Class Period will be matched, in chronological order, starting with shares of AAC common stock prior to March 8, 2017. The remaining sales of AAC common stock will then be matched, in chronological order, against shares purchased or otherwise acquired during the Class Period.

A Class Member will be eligible to receive a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund only if a Class Member had a net overall loss, after all profits from transactions are subtracted from all losses. However, the proceeds from sales of AAC common stock held prior to the Class Period will not be used in the calculation of such net loss.

If purchase or other acquisition and sale transactions reflect a market gain, the recognized claim for the specific shares involved in the transaction will be \$0.00. The Claims Administrator shall allocate to each Authorized Claimant a *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund based on his, her, or its recognized claim as compared to the total recognized claims of all Authorized Claimants.

Purchases or other acquisitions and sales of AAC common stock shall be deemed to have occurred on the “contract” or “trade” date as opposed to the “settlement” or “payment” date. The receipt or grant by gift, inheritance or operation of law of AAC common stock shall not be deemed a purchase, other acquisition or sale of AAC common stock for the calculation of Recognized Loss, unless (i) the donor or decedent purchased or otherwise acquired such AAC common stock during the Class Period; (ii) no Proof of Claim was submitted by or on behalf of the donor, on behalf of the decedent, or by anyone else with respect to such AAC common stock; and (iii) it is specifically so provided in the instrument of gift or assignment.

An Authorized Claimant’s Recognized Loss shall be the amount used to calculate the Authorized Claimant’s *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund. If the sum total of Recognized Losses of all Authorized Claimants who are entitled to receive payment out of the Net Settlement Fund is greater than the Net Settlement Fund, each Authorized Claimant shall receive his, her, or its *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund. The *pro rata* share shall be the Authorized Claimant’s Recognized Loss divided by the total of the Recognized Losses of all Authorized Claimants, multiplied by the total amount in the Net Settlement Fund. Given the costs of distribution, the Net Settlement Fund will be allocated among all Authorized Claimants whose distribution calculates to \$10.00 or greater.

Distributions will be made to Authorized Claimants after all claims have been processed, after the Court has finally approved the Settlement, and after any appeals are resolved. If there is any balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund after at least six (6) months from the initial date of distribution of the Net Settlement Fund (whether by reason of tax refunds, uncashed checks, or otherwise), the Claims Administrator shall, if feasible, reallocate such balance among Authorized Claimants in an equitable and economic fashion. These redistributions shall be repeated until the balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund is no longer economically feasible to distribute to Class Members. Thereafter, any balance that still remains in the Net Settlement Fund shall be donated to any appropriate non-sectarian, non-profit charitable organization(s) serving the public interest.

Please contact the Claims Administrator or Class Counsel if you disagree with any determinations made by the Claims Administrator regarding your Proof of Claim. If you are dissatisfied with the determinations, you may ask the Court, which retains jurisdiction over all Class Members and the claims administration process, to decide the issue by submitting a written request.

The Court has reserved jurisdiction to allow, disallow, or adjust the claim of any Class Member on equitable grounds.

Payment pursuant to the Plan of Allocation set forth above shall be conclusive against all Authorized Claimants. Defendants, their respective counsel, and all other Released Persons will have no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the investment of the Settlement Fund, the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, the Plan of Allocation, or the payment of any claim. No Person shall have any claim against Plaintiff, Plaintiff’s Counsel, the Claims Administrator, or other Person designated by Plaintiff’s Counsel, Defendants, or Defendants’ Counsel based on distributions made substantially in accordance with the Stipulation and the Settlement contained therein, the Plan of Allocation, or further orders of the Court.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SECURITIES BROKERS AND OTHER NOMINEES

Nominees who purchased or otherwise acquired AAC common stock for beneficial owners who are Class Members are directed to: (i) request within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Notice sufficient copies of the Notice from the Claims Administrator to forward to all such beneficial owners; or (ii) send a list of the names and addresses (including email addresses if available) of such beneficial owners to the Claims Administrator within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the Notice. If a nominee elects to send the Notice to beneficial owners, such nominee is directed to email or mail (where an email is unavailable) the Notice within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of those documents from the Claims Administrator, and upon such emailing or mailing, the nominee shall send a statement to the Claims Administrator confirming that the emailing or mailing was made as directed, and the nominee shall retain the list of names and addresses for use in connection with any possible future notice to the Class. Upon full compliance with these instructions, including the timely emailing or mailing of the Notice to beneficial owners, such nominees may seek reimbursement of their reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with these instructions by providing the Claims Administrator with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought and reflecting compliance with these instructions. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses actually incurred in connection with the foregoing includes up to \$0.03 for providing names, addresses, and email addresses to the Claims Administrator per record; up to a maximum of \$0.03 per Notice mailed by you, plus postage at the rate used by the Claims Administrator; or \$0.03 per Notice sent by email. Such properly documented expenses incurred by nominees in compliance with the terms of these instructions will be paid from the Settlement Fund. Copies of this Notice may also be obtained by calling toll-free 866-753-8854, and may be downloaded from the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

AAC Securities Litigation
Claims Administrator
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
P.O. Box 301171
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1171
www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com

DATED: _____

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE,
NASHVILLE DIVISION

EXHIBIT A-2

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

INDIANA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM,)	Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407
Individually and on Behalf of All Others)	
Similarly Situated,)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
)	
Plaintiff,)	Judge Eli J. Richardson
)	Magistrate Judge Alistair E. Newbern
vs.)	
)	PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE
MICHAEL T. CARTWRIGHT, KIRK R.)	
MANZ and ANDREW W. McWILLIAMS,)	EXHIBIT A-2
)	
Defendants.)	
)	
)	
)	

I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. To recover as a Class Member based on the claims in the Litigation,¹ you must complete and, on page ___ hereof, sign this Proof of Claim. If you fail to file a properly addressed (as set forth in paragraph 3 below) Proof of Claim, your claim may be rejected and you may be precluded from any recovery from the Net Settlement Fund created in connection with the proposed Settlement.

2. Submission of this Proof of Claim, however, does not assure that you will share in the proceeds of the Settlement of the Litigation.

¹ This Proof of Claim and Release (“Proof of Claim”) incorporates by reference the definitions in the Stipulation of Settlement (“Stipulation”), which can be obtained at www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

3. YOU MUST MAIL OR SUBMIT ONLINE YOUR COMPLETED AND SIGNED PROOF OF CLAIM, ACCOMPANIED BY COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED HEREIN, **ON OR BEFORE** _____, **2023**, ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:

AAC Securities Litigation
Claims Administrator
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
P.O. Box 301171
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1171
Online Submissions: www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com

If you are NOT a Class Member, as defined in the Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action (“Notice”), DO NOT submit a Proof of Claim.

4. If you are a Class Member and you do not timely request exclusion, you are bound by the terms of any judgment entered in the Litigation, including the releases provided therein, **WHETHER OR NOT YOU SUBMIT A PROOF OF CLAIM.**

II. CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION

You are a Member of the Class if you purchased or otherwise acquired common stock of AAC Holdings, Inc. (“AAC” or the “Company”) between March 8, 2017 and April 15, 2019, inclusive (the “Class Period”), and are not otherwise excluded from the Class.

Use Part I of this form entitled “Claimant Identification” to identify each purchaser or acquirer of record (“nominee”) of AAC common stock that forms the basis of this claim. **THIS CLAIM MUST BE FILED BY THE ACTUAL BENEFICIAL PURCHASER(S) OR ACQUIRER(S) OR THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH PURCHASER(S) OR ACQUIRER(S) OF AAC COMMON STOCK UPON WHICH THIS CLAIM IS BASED.**

All joint purchasers or acquirers must sign this claim. Executors, administrators, guardians, conservators, and trustees must complete and sign this claim on behalf of persons represented by them and their authority must accompany this claim and their titles or capacities must be stated. The

Social Security (or taxpayer identification) number and telephone number of the beneficial owner may be used in verifying the claim. Failure to provide the foregoing information could delay verification of your claim or result in rejection of the claim.

III. CLAIM FORM

Use Part II of this form entitled “Schedule of Transactions in AAC Common Stock” to supply all required details of your transaction(s). If you need more space or additional schedules, attach separate sheets giving all of the required information in substantially the same form. Sign and print or type your name on each additional sheet.

On the schedules, provide all of the requested information with respect to *all* of your purchases, acquisitions, and sales of AAC common stock that took place between March 8, 2017 and July 12, 2019, inclusive, whether such transactions resulted in a profit or a loss. You must also provide all of the requested information with respect to the number of shares of AAC common stock you held at the close of trading on April 15, 2019 and on July 12, 2019. Failure to report all such transactions may result in the rejection of your claim.

List each transaction separately and in chronological order, by trade date, beginning with the earliest. You must accurately provide the month, day, and year of each transaction you list.

The date of covering a “short sale” is deemed to be the date of purchase or other acquisition of AAC common stock. The date of a “short sale” is deemed to be the date of sale of AAC common stock.

COPIES OF BROKER CONFIRMATIONS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION OF YOUR TRANSACTIONS IN AAC COMMON STOCK SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO YOUR CLAIM. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THIS DOCUMENTATION COULD DELAY VERIFICATION OF YOUR CLAIM OR RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR CLAIM.

NOTICE REGARDING ELECTRONIC FILES: Certain claimants with large numbers of transactions may request, or may be requested, to submit information regarding their transactions in electronic files. All such claimants MUST also submit a manually signed paper Proof of Claim whether or not they also submit electronic copies. If you wish to submit your claim electronically, you must contact the Claims Administrator at info@AACSecuritiesLitigation.com to obtain the required file layout. No electronic files will be considered to have been properly submitted unless the Claims Administrator issues to the claimant a written acknowledgment of receipt and acceptance of electronically submitted data.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE DIVISION

Indiana Public Retirement System v. Cartwright, et al.

Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407

PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE

Must Be Postmarked (if Mailed) or Received (if Submitted Online) No Later Than:

_____, 2023

Please Type or Print

REMEMBER TO ATTACH COPIES OF BROKER CONFIRMATIONS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION OF YOUR TRANSACTIONS IN AAC COMMON STOCK. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THIS DOCUMENTATION COULD DELAY VERIFICATION OF YOUR CLAIM OR RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR CLAIM.

PART I: CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION

Last Name	M.I.	First Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Last Name (Co-Beneficial Owner)	M.I.	First Name (Co-Beneficial Owner)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="radio"/> IRA <input type="radio"/> Joint Tenancy <input type="radio"/> Employee <input type="radio"/> Individual <input type="radio"/> Other _____ (specify)		
Company Name (Beneficial Owner - If Claimant is not an Individual) or Custodian Name if an IRA		
<input type="text"/>		
Trustee/Asset Manager/Nominee/Record Owner's Name (If Different from Beneficial Owner Listed Above)		
<input type="text"/>		
Account#/Fund# (Not Necessary for Individual Filers)		
<input type="text"/>		

Social Security Number	or	Taxpayer Identification Number
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number (Primary Daytime)		Telephone Number (Alternate)
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Email Address		
<input type="text"/>		

MAILING INFORMATION

Address		
<input type="text"/>		
Address		
<input type="text"/>		
City	State	Zip Code
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Foreign Province	Foreign Postal Code	Foreign Country Name/Abbreviation
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

PART II: SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN AAC COMMON STOCK

A. Purchases or other acquisitions of AAC common stock (March 8, 2017 through July 12, 2019, inclusive):

Trade Date(s) Month Day Year (List chronologically)	Number of Shares Purchased or Otherwise Acquired	Total Purchase or Acquisition Price (Excluding commissions, taxes and fees)	Proof of Purchase/ Acquisition Enclosed
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N

IMPORTANT: (i) If any purchase listed covered a “short sale,” please mark Yes: Yes

(ii) If you received shares through an acquisition or merger at some date beginning March 8, 2017 and July 12, 2019, please identify the date, the share amount, and the company acquired:

_____/_____/_____
MM DD YYYY Merger Shares Company

B. Sales of AAC common stock (March 8, 2017 through July 12, 2019, inclusive):

Trade Date Month Day Year	Number of Shares Sold	Total Sales Price (Excluding commissions, taxes and fees)	Proof of Sale Enclosed
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N

C. Number of shares of AAC common stock held at the close of trading on April 15, 2019: _____

D. Number of shares of AAC common stock held at the close of trading on July 12, 2019: _____

Proof of Position Enclosed: Yes No

YOU MUST READ AND SIGN THE RELEASE ON PAGE __. FAILURE TO SIGN THE RELEASE MAY RESULT IN A DELAY IN PROCESSING OR THE REJECTION OF YOUR CLAIM.

IV. SUBMISSION TO JURISDICTION OF COURT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I (We) submit this Proof of Claim under the terms of the Stipulation described in the Notice. I (We) also submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division, with respect to my (our) claim as a Class Member and for purposes of enforcing the release set forth herein. I (We) further acknowledge that I am (we are) bound by and subject to the terms of any judgment that may be entered in the Litigation. I (We) agree to furnish additional information to the Claims Administrator to support this claim if requested to do so. I (We) have not submitted any other claim covering the same purchases, other acquisitions, or sales of AAC common stock during the relevant period and know of no other person having done so on my (our) behalf.

V. RELEASE

1. I (We) hereby acknowledge full and complete satisfaction of, and do hereby fully, finally, and forever settle, release, and discharge from the Released Claims each and all of the “Released Persons,” defined as Defendants, their Related Parties, and Defendants’ Counsel.

2. “Related Parties” means each Defendant’s respective immediate family members, spouses, heirs, estates, executors, trusts, trustees, administrators, agents, legal or personal representatives, attorneys, insurers, principals, employees, auditors, accountants, advisors, assigns, and assignees of each of them, in their capacity as such; and AAC and its past or present trustees, executors, administrators, officers, directors, partners, members, employees, contractors, auditors, accountants, advisors (including financial advisors or consultants), principals, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, assigns, representatives, affiliates, joint venturers, shareholders,

underwriters, insurers, personal or legal representatives, estates, financial advisors or consultants, banks or investment bankers, parents, subsidiaries, general or limited partners or partnerships, and limited liability companies.

3. “Released Claims” means any and all claims and causes of action of every nature and description, whether known or unknown, asserted or unasserted, accrued or unaccrued, fixed or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, whether arising under federal, state, common, or foreign law or any other law, rule or regulation, whether class or individual in nature, arising out of, relating to or in connection with both: (i) the purchase and/or other acquisition of AAC common stock during the period March 8, 2017 through April 15, 2019, inclusive; and (ii) the facts, matters, events, transactions, acts, occurrences, statements, representations, misrepresentations and/or omissions that were or could have been alleged in the Litigation. “Released Claims” does not include claims to enforce the Settlement, or the claims of any Person who submits a request for exclusion in connection with this Settlement. “Released Claims” includes “Unknown Claims” as defined herein.

4. “Unknown Claims” means (a) any and all Released Claims which any of the Releasing Plaintiff Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of the Released Defendant Parties, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement with and release of the Released Defendant Parties, or might have affected his, her, or its decision(s) with respect to the Settlement, including, but not limited to, whether or not to object to this Settlement or seek exclusion from the Class; and (b) any and all Released Defendants’ Claims that any of the Released Defendant Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff’s Counsel, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement and release of Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff’s Counsel. With respect to (a) any and all Released Claims against the Released

Defendant Parties, and (b) any and all Released Defendants' Claims against Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel, the Settling Parties stipulate and agree that, upon the Effective Date, the Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have expressly waived, the provisions, rights, and benefits of California Civil Code §1542, which provides:

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

The Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, expressly waived any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to California Civil Code §1542. The Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties acknowledge that they may hereafter discover facts, legal theories, or authorities in addition to or different from those which he, she, it, or their counsel now knows or believes to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims or Released Defendants' Claims, but (a) the Releasing Plaintiff Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish, and release, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party shall be deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, accrued or unaccrued, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, or may hereafter exist, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future,

including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law, or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities, and (b) the Released Defendant Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish, and release, and each Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Defendants' Claims against Plaintiff, the Class, and Plaintiff's Counsel, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities. The Settling Parties acknowledge, and the Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties shall be deemed by operation of the Judgment to have acknowledged, that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and is an essential element of the Settlement of which this release is a part.

5. I (We) hereby warrant and represent that I (we) have not assigned or transferred or purported to assign or transfer, voluntarily or involuntarily, any matter released pursuant to this release or any other part or portion thereof.

6. I (We) hereby warrant and represent that I (we) have included information about all of my (our) transactions in AAC common stock that occurred during the relevant period as well as the number of shares held by me (us) at the close of trading on April 15, 2019 and on July 12, 2019.

I (We) declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that all of the foregoing information supplied on this Proof of Claim by the undersigned is true and correct.

Executed this _____ day of _____
(Month/Year)

in _____
(City) (State/Country)

(Sign your name here)

(Type or print your name here)

(Capacity of person(s) signing,
e.g., Beneficial Purchaser or Acquirer,
Executor or Administrator)

**ACCURATE CLAIMS PROCESSING TAKES A
SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.**

Reminder Checklist:

1. Please sign the above release and acknowledgment.
2. Remember to attach copies of supporting documentation.
3. **Do not send** originals of certificates or other documentation as they will not be returned.

4. Keep a copy of your Proof of Claim and all supporting documentation for your records.
5. If you desire an acknowledgment of receipt of your Proof of Claim, please send it Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.
6. If you move, please send your new address to the address below.
7. **Do not use red pen or highlighter** on the Proof of Claim or supporting documentation.

THIS PROOF OF CLAIM MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE OR MAILED NO LATER THAN _____, 2023, ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:

AAC Securities Litigation
Claims Administrator
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
P.O. Box 301171
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1171
Online Submissions: www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com

EXHIBIT A-3

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

INDIANA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,	)	Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407
)	
	)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
Plaintiff,	)	Judge Eli J. Richardson
	)	Magistrate Judge Alistair E. Newbern
vs.)	
	)	SUMMARY NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION
MICHAEL T. CARTWRIGHT, KIRK R. MANZ and ANDREW W. McWILLIAMS,)	
	)	EXHIBIT A-3
Defendants.)	
)	
)	

TO: ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES WHO PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED THE COMMON STOCK OF AAC HOLDINGS, INC. (“AAC” OR THE “COMPANY”) BETWEEN MARCH 8, 2017 AND APRIL 15, 2019, INCLUSIVE (“CLASS” OR “CLASS MEMBERS”)

THIS NOTICE WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE COURT. IT IS NOT A LAWYER SOLICITATION. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a hearing will be held on _____, 2023, at ____: __.m., before the Honorable Eli Richardson at the United States District Court, Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division, Fred D. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, Courtroom 5C, 719 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203, to determine whether: (1) the proposed settlement (the “Settlement”) of the above-captioned Litigation as set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement (“Stipulation”)¹ for \$3,750,000 in cash should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable, and adequate; (2) the Judgment as provided under the Stipulation should be entered

¹ The Stipulation can be viewed and/or obtained at www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

dismissing the Litigation with prejudice; (3) to award Plaintiff's Counsel attorneys' fees and expenses out of the Settlement Fund (as defined in the Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action ("Notice"), which is discussed below) and, if so, in what amount; (4) to pay Plaintiff for its costs and expenses in representing the Class out of the Settlement Fund and, if so, in what amount; and (5) the Plan of Allocation should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable, and adequate.

There exists the possibility that the Court may decide to conduct the Settlement Hearing by video or telephonic conference, or otherwise allow Class Members to appear at the hearing by phone or videoconference, without further written notice to the Class. In order to determine whether the date and time of the Settlement Hearing have changed, or whether Class Members must or may participate by phone or video, it is important that you monitor the Court's docket and the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com, before making any plans to attend the Settlement Hearing. Any updates regarding the Settlement Hearing, including any changes to the date or time of the hearing or updates regarding in-person or telephonic appearances at the hearing, will also be posted to that website. Also, if the Court requires or allows Class Members to participate in the Settlement Hearing by telephone or videoconference, the access information will be posted to the Settlement website, www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com.

IF YOU PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED AAC COMMON STOCK BETWEEN MARCH 8, 2017 AND APRIL 15, 2019, INCLUSIVE, YOUR RIGHTS ARE AFFECTED BY THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS LITIGATION.

To share in the distribution of the Settlement Fund, you must establish your rights by submitting a Proof of Claim and Release form ("Proof of Claim") by mail (**postmarked no later than _____, 2023**) or electronically (**no later than _____, 2023**). Your failure to

submit your Proof of Claim by _____, 2023, will subject your claim to rejection and preclude your receiving any of the recovery in connection with the Settlement of this Litigation. If you purchased or otherwise acquired AAC common stock between March 8, 2017 and April 15, 2019, inclusive, and do not request exclusion from the Class, you will be bound by the Settlement and any judgment and release entered in the Litigation, including, but not limited to, the Judgment, whether or not you submit a Proof of Claim.

If you have not received a copy of the Notice, which more completely describes the Settlement and your rights thereunder (including your right to object to the Settlement), and a Proof of Claim, you may obtain these documents, as well as a copy of the Stipulation (which, among other things, contains definitions for the defined terms used in this Summary Notice) and other settlement documents, online at www.AACSecuritiesLitigation.com, or by writing to:

AAC Securities Litigation
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
P.O. Box 301171
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1171

Inquiries should NOT be directed to AAC, Defendants, the Court, or the Clerk of the Court.

Inquiries, other than requests for the Notice or for a Proof of Claim, may be made to Class Counsel:

ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP
Ellen Gusikoff Stewart
655 West Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: 800/449-4900
settlementinfo@rgrdlaw.com

IF YOU DESIRE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CLASS, YOU MUST SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION SUCH THAT IT IS **POSTMARKED BY _____, 2023,** IN THE MANNER AND FORM EXPLAINED IN THE NOTICE. ALL CLASS MEMBERS

WILL BE BOUND BY THE SETTLEMENT EVEN IF THEY DO NOT SUBMIT A TIMELY PROOF OF CLAIM.

IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT, THE PLAN OF ALLOCATION, THE REQUEST BY PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES NOT TO EXCEED 17% OF THE \$3,750,000 SETTLEMENT AMOUNT AND EXPENSES NOT TO EXCEED \$695,000, AND/OR THE PAYMENT TO PLAINTIFF FOR ITS COSTS AND EXPENSES NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000. ANY OBJECTIONS MUST BE FILED WITH THE COURT AND SENT TO CLASS COUNSEL AND DEFENDANTS' COUNSEL **BY** _____, **2023**, IN THE MANNER AND FORM EXPLAINED IN THE NOTICE.

DATED: _____

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE,
NASHVILLE DIVISION

EXHIBIT B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

INDIANA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,	)	Civil Action No. 3:19-cv-00407
)	
	)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
Plaintiff,	)	Judge Eli J. Richardson
	)	Magistrate Judge Alistair E. Newbern
vs.)	
	)	[PROPOSED] FINAL JUDGMENT AND
MICHAEL T. CARTWRIGHT, KIRK R. MANZ and ANDREW W. McWILLIAMS,	)	ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE
)	
Defendants.	)	EXHIBIT B
)	
_____)	

This matter came before the Court pursuant to the Order Preliminarily Approving Settlement and Providing for Notice (“Notice Order”) dated _____, 2023, on the application of the parties for approval of the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement dated May 17, 2023 (the “Stipulation”). Due and adequate notice having been given to the Class as required in said Notice Order, and the Court having considered all papers filed and proceedings had herein and otherwise being fully informed in the premises and good cause appearing therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

1. This Judgment incorporates by reference the definitions in the Stipulation, and all capitalized terms used herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Stipulation, unless otherwise set forth herein.

2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Litigation and over all parties to the Litigation, including all Members of the Class.

3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court hereby affirms its determination in the Notice Order and finally certifies, solely for purposes of effectuating the Settlement, a Class defined as: all Persons who purchased or otherwise acquired the common stock of AAC between March 8, 2017 and April 15, 2019, inclusive (the “Class Period”). Excluded from the Class are AAC, Michael T. Cartwright, Kirk R. Manz, Andrew McWilliams and members of their respective immediate families, any entity of which any of them has a controlling interest and the legal representatives, heirs, predecessors, successors or assigns of any of them.

4. Also excluded from the Class is any Person who would otherwise be a Member of the Class but who validly and timely requested exclusion in accordance with the requirements set by the Court, as identified in Exhibit 1 hereto.

5. Solely for purposes of the Settlement of this Litigation, the Court finds that: (a) the Members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all Class Members in the Class is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Class which predominate over any individual question; (c) Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the Class; (d) Plaintiff and its counsel have fairly and adequately represented and protected the Members of the Class; and (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, considering (i) the interests of the Members of the Class individually controlling the prosecution with separate actions; (ii) the extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy already commenced by Members of the Class; (iii) the desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of these claims in this particular forum; and (iv) the difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of the class action.

6. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, the Court hereby approves the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation and finds that:

(a) said Stipulation and the Settlement contained therein are, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interest of the Class;

(b) there was no collusion in connection with the Stipulation;

(c) the Stipulation was the product of informed, arm's-length negotiations among competent, able counsel; and

(d) the record is sufficiently developed and complete to have enabled Plaintiff and Defendants to have adequately evaluated and considered their positions.

7. Accordingly, the Court authorizes and directs implementation and performance of all the terms and provisions of the Stipulation, as well as the terms and provisions hereof. Except as to any individual claim of those Persons (identified in Exhibit 1 attached hereto) who have validly and timely requested exclusion from the Class, the Court hereby dismisses the Litigation and all claims asserted therein with prejudice. The Settling Parties are to bear their own costs, except as and to the extent provided in the Stipulation and herein.

8. Upon the Effective Date, and as provided in the Stipulation, Plaintiff shall, and each of the Class Members shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Claims (including Unknown Claims) against the Released Defendant Parties, whether or not such Class Member executes and delivers the Proof of Claim and Release form or shares in the Net Settlement Fund. Claims to enforce the terms of the Stipulation or any order of the Court in the Litigation are not released.

9. Upon the Effective Date, and as provided in the Stipulation, all Class Members and anyone claiming through or on behalf of any of them, will be forever barred and enjoined from commencing, instituting, prosecuting, or continuing to prosecute any action or other proceeding in

any court of law or equity, arbitration tribunal, or administrative forum, asserting any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Defendant Parties.

10. Upon the Effective Date, and as provided in the Stipulation, each of the Released Defendant Parties shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Defendants' Claims (including Unknown Claims) against the Plaintiff, each and all of the Class Members, and Plaintiff's Counsel. Claims to enforce the terms of the Stipulation or any order of the Court in the Litigation are not released.

11. The Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action given to the Class was the best notice practicable under the circumstances, including the individual notice to all Members of the Class who could be identified through reasonable effort. Said notice provided the best notice practicable under the circumstances of those proceedings and of the matters set forth therein, including the proposed Settlement set forth in the Stipulation, to all Persons entitled to such notice, and said notice fully satisfied the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the requirements of due process. No Class Member is relieved from the terms of the Settlement, including the releases provided for therein, based upon the contention or proof that such Class Member failed to receive actual or adequate notice. A full opportunity has been offered to the Class Members to object to the proposed Settlement and to participate in the hearing thereon. The Court further finds that the notice provisions of the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1715, were fully discharged and that the statutory waiting period has elapsed. Thus, the Court hereby determines that all Class Members are bound by this Judgment.

12. Any Plan of Allocation submitted by Class Counsel or any order entered regarding any attorneys' fee and expense application shall in no way disturb or affect this Judgment and shall be considered separate from this Judgment.

13. Neither the Stipulation nor the Settlement contained therein, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in furtherance of the Stipulation or the Settlement: (a) is, or may be deemed to be, or may be used as an admission of, or evidence of, the validity of any Released Claim, or of any wrongdoing or liability of the Defendants or their respective Related Parties, or (b) is, or may be deemed to be, or may be used as an admission of, or evidence of, any fault or omission of any of the Defendants or their respective Related Parties in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal. The Defendants and/or their respective Related Parties may file the Stipulation and/or this Judgment from this Litigation in any other action that may be brought against them in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

14. Without affecting the finality of this Judgment in any way, this Court hereby retains continuing jurisdiction over: (a) implementation of this Settlement and any award or distribution of the Settlement Fund, including interest earned thereon; (b) disposition of the Settlement Fund; (c) hearing and determining applications for attorneys' fees, expenses, and interest in the Litigation; and (d) all parties herein for the purpose of construing, enforcing, and administering the Stipulation.

15. The Court finds that during the course of the Litigation, the Settling Parties and their respective counsel at all times complied with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11.

16. The Court's orders entered during the course of the Litigation relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive this Settlement.

17. In the event that the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of the Stipulation, or the Effective Date does not occur, or in the event that the Settlement Fund, or any portion thereof, is returned to the Defendants or their insurers, then this Judgment shall be rendered null and void to the extent provided by and in accordance with the Stipulation and shall be vacated and, in such event, all orders entered and releases delivered in connection herewith shall be null and void to the extent provided by and in accordance with the Stipulation, and the Settling Parties shall revert to their respective positions in the Litigation as of April 5, 2023, as provided in the Stipulation.

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

19. The Court directs immediate entry of this Judgment by the Clerk of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____

THE HONORABLE ELI RICHARDSON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE