

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
SECURITIES, DERIVATIVE AND ERISA
LITIGATION

Master File No. 07-cv-9633 (JSR)(DFE)

This Document Relates To:
Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, et al.
v. Conway, et al., 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE)

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT OF SETTLEMENT

This stipulation and agreement of settlement dated as of August 12, 2009 (the "Settlement Stipulation") is submitted pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Subject to the approval of the District Court, this Settlement Stipulation is entered into by Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System ("Bond Plaintiffs") on behalf of themselves and the proposed Settlement Class (defined below) by and through their counsel, and Defendants (defined below), by and through their respective counsel.

This Settlement Stipulation is intended by the parties hereto to fully and finally compromise, resolve, discharge and settle the Released Claims, as defined herein, subject to the terms and conditions set forth below and final approval of the District Court:

WHEREAS:

A. All terms with initial capitalization not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in paragraph 1 herein.

B. On October 3, 2008, Bond Plaintiffs commenced an action styled *Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement*

System v. Conway et al., Index No. 650364/08 in New York State Supreme Court asserting claims for violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 on behalf of all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired Merrill securities in or traceable to the registered public offerings identified in the complaint against certain of the defendants named in the Amended Complaint and others (the “Bond State Court Action”).

C. On October 16, 2008, defendants Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (“Merrill”), Merrill Lynch Capital Trust I, Merrill Lynch Capital Trust II, Merrill Lynch Capital Trust III and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated filed a Notice of Removal of the Bond State Court Action from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

D. On October 22, 2008, the Bond State Court Action was referred to the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff as a possible related case to the several securities actions that had been brought in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and which had been consolidated by order dated dated March 12, 2008 under the caption *In re Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Securities, Derivative, and ERISA Litigation*, No. 07-CV-09633-JSR-DFE (the “Consolidated Securities Action”).

E. On December 3, 2008, Judge Rakoff issued an order coordinating the Consolidated Securities Action and the removed Bond State Court Action (the “Bond Action”) for pre-trial purposes and directing that Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel (Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP), subject to the supervision of Lead Plaintiff in the Consolidated Securities Action, shall have primary responsibility for prosecuting all claims on behalf of the investors in Merrill Lynch bonds and preferred shares that were identified in the Bond Action but not in the Consolidated Securities Action (the “Coordination Order”).

F. On February 4, 2009, the District Court instructed the parties to brief a motion to dismiss addressed to the complaint filed in the Bond State Court Action and removed to federal court. Accordingly, on February 9, 2009, Defendants filed three separate motions to dismiss the Bond State Court Action complaint. Defendants asserted that, inter alia, plaintiffs had failed to meet the pleading requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. (9)(b), had failed to allege any untrue statement or actionable omission, and lacked standing to bring their claims under Sections 11 and 12(a) of the Securities Act. On February 13, 2009, Bond Plaintiffs filed their opposition to the motions.

G. On February 17 and 19, 2009, the District Court heard oral argument on Defendants' motions to dismiss. During the hearing, the Court expressed certain views making it clear that Bond Plaintiffs would need, and the District Court intended to provide, an opportunity to file an amended complaint. At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Rakoff gave Bond Plaintiffs until March 13, 2009 to file their amended complaint. On February 27, 2009, the Court issued a Memorandum Order in which it stated that that the Court had determined that the complaint originally filed in the Bond State Court Action as pled was subject to Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b) but that the Court would only take up the motions to dismiss after Bond Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint and further briefing on the motions to dismiss was submitted.

H. On March 13, 2009, Bond Plaintiffs filed the Amended Class Action Complaint for Violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933, which they corrected with the filing of the [Corrected] Amended Class Action Complaint for Violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 on March 18, 2009 (the "Amended Complaint") on behalf of purchasers or acquirers of Bond Class Securities (as defined below). The Amended Complaint included as additional plaintiffs NECA-IBEW Pension Trust Fund Pension Plan, Iron

Workers Locals 40, 361, 417 Union Security Funds, Iron Workers Local 580 Joint Funds, City of Pontiac Police and Fire Retirement System and City of Pontiac General Employees Retirement System, added defendants that had not been named in the Bond State Court Action and did not name certain defendants that had been named as defendants in the Bond State Court Action.¹

I. The Amended Complaint alleges, among other things, that the offering materials for the Bond Class Securities (the “Offering Materials”) failed to accurately disclose the existence and value of tens of billions of dollars of complex derivative securities linked to subprime residential mortgages and Merrill’s material dependence on failing monoline insurers to hedge those and other exposures. The Amended Complaint further alleges that the full extent of Merrill’s exposure was not disclosed until January 15, 2009 with the announcement of a \$138 billion financial bailout by the government to induce Bank of America Corporation (“BAC”) to complete its acquisition of Merrill.

J. On March 27, 2009, Defendants moved against the Amended Complaint seeking to have it dismissed with prejudice on the basis that, *inter alia*: (i) plaintiffs failed to plead any actionable misrepresentations or omissions; (ii) the Amended Complaint sounded in fraud and failed to meet the pleading requirement of Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b); and (iii) none of the plaintiffs had a cognizable claim with respect to certain of the offerings that were the subject of complaint.

K. On April 10, 2009, Plaintiffs filed a consolidated opposition to Defendants’ motions to dismiss. Oral argument on the motions was set to take place on April 23, 2009.

L. The motions to dismiss were pending when, on April 21, 2009, the parties reached an agreement in principle to settle the Bond Action.

¹ On March 11 and 12, 2009, Bond Plaintiffs entered into tolling agreements with the Former Defendants (defined below) which had been named as defendants in the Bond State Court Action.

Benefits of the Settlement to the Class

A. Bond Counsel believe that the Settlement provides an excellent monetary recovery for the Settlement Class based on the claims asserted, the procedural posture of the litigation, the evidence developed and the damages that might be proven by the Settlement Class.

B. Bond Counsel, on behalf of Bond Plaintiffs, further recognizes and acknowledges the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to prosecute the Bond Action through trial and appeal. It has also considered the uncertain outcome and the risk of any litigation, including the risk that Plaintiffs might recover nothing, especially in complex litigation such as this case, as well as the difficulties and delays inherent in any such litigation. Bond Counsel is also mindful of the inherent problems of proof and possible defenses to the federal securities law violations asserted against Defendants, and therefore believes that it is desirable that the Released Claims be fully and finally compromised, settled and resolved as set forth herein. Based upon its evaluation, Bond Counsel, on behalf of Bond Plaintiffs and the other members of the Settlement Class, has determined that the Settlement set forth in this Settlement Stipulation is fair, reasonable and adequate and in the best interests of Bond Plaintiffs and the other members of the Settlement Class.

NOW THEREFORE, without any admission or concession on the part of Bond Plaintiffs or Bond Counsel of any lack of merit in the claims asserted, and without any admission or concession of any liability or wrongdoing or lack of merit in the defenses whatsoever by Defendants, it is hereby

STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and among the parties to this Settlement Stipulation, through their respective attorneys, subject to approval of the District Court pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the PSLRA and other conditions set forth herein, in

consideration of the benefits flowing to the parties hereto, that the Bond Action and all Released Claims as against the Released Parties shall be finally and fully compromised, settled, released and dismissed, on the merits and with prejudice, in the manner and upon and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Certain Definitions

1. The following capitalized terms used in this Settlement Stipulation shall have the meanings specified below:

(a) “Amended Complaint” means the Corrected Amended Class Action Complaint for violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 dated March 18, 2009.

(b) “Authorized Claimant” means a Settlement Class Member who submits a timely and valid Proof of Claim Form to the Claims Administrator, in accordance with the requirements established by the District Court, that is approved for payment from the Net Settlement Fund (as defined below).

(c) “Additional Plaintiffs” means NECA-IBEW Pension Trust Fund Pension Plan, Iron Workers Locals 40, 361, 417 Union Security Funds, Iron Workers Local 580 Joint Funds, City of Pontiac Police and Fire Retirement System and City of Pontiac General Employees Retirement System.

(d) “Bond Action” means the securities class action styled *Louisiana Sheriffs’ Pension and Relief Fund, et al. v. Conway, et al.*, 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE) that was coordinated by the District Court with docket number 07cv9633 pursuant to Order Regarding Coordination of Actions dated December 3, 2008.

(e) “Bond Class Securities” means 8.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 8 (060505559 formerly known as 59023V373); 6.11% Subordinated Notes due January 29, 2037 (59022CAJ2); 5.70% Subordinated Notes due May 2, 2017 (59022CCS0); Medium-Term Notes, Series C (59018YE72); 6.05% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (59018YJ36); 6.40% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (59018YJ69); 5.45% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (59018YM40); 6.15% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (59018YN56); 6.875% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (59018YN64); and 7.75% Subordinated Notes (59023VAA8).

(f) “Bond Counsel” means the firm of Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP.

(g) “Bond Plaintiffs” means Louisiana Sheriffs’ Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees’ Retirement System.

(h) “Claim” means a completed and signed Proof of Claim Form submitted to the Claims Administrator in accordance with the instructions on the Proof of Claim Form.

(i) “Claim Form” or “Proof of Claim Form” means the form, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-2, that a Claimant or Settlement Class Member must complete should that Claimant or Settlement Class Member seek to share in a distribution of the Net Settlement Fund.

(j) “Claimant” means a person or entity that submits a Claim Form to the Claims Administrator seeking to share in the proceeds of the Settlement Fund.

(k) “Claims Administrator” means the entity appointed by the District Court to administer the settlement and disseminate notice to the Settlement Class.

(l) “Class Distribution Order” means an order entered by the District Court authorizing and directing that the Net Settlement Fund be distributed, in whole or in part, to Authorized Claimants.

(m) “Defendants” means collectively Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., the Individual Defendants (as defined below) and the Underwriter Defendants (as defined below).

(n) “Defendants’ Counsel” means the following law firms of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (on behalf of Defendants Merrill and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated); Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP (on behalf of Defendant E. Stanley O’Neal); Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP (on behalf of Defendant Ahmass L. Fakahany); Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (on behalf of Defendant Gregory J. Fleming); Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (on behalf of Defendant Jeffrey N. Edwards); Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (on behalf of Defendant Laurence A. Tosi); Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP (on behalf of Defendants Carol T. Christ, Armando M. Codina, Virgis W. Colbert, Jill K. Conway, Alberto Cribiore, John D. Finnegan, Judith Mayhew Jonas, Heinz-Joachim Neuburger, David K. Newbigging, Aulana L. Peters, Joseph W. Prueher, Ann. N. Reese and Charles O. Rossotti), Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP (on behalf of Defendants Jill K. Conway, Armando M. Codina, Alberto Cribiore, John D. Finnegan, Heinz-Joachim Neubürger, David K. Newbigging, Aulana L. Peters, Joseph W. Prueher, Ann N. Reese, Charles O. Rossotti, Virgis W. Colbert, Judith Mayhew Jonas, and Carol T. Christ); Dechert LLP (on behalf of Defendant John A. Thain); and Goodwin Procter LLP (on behalf of Defendants Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. UBS Securities LLC, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC).

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

(p) “Effective Date” means the first day following the date on which the settlement contemplated by this Settlement Stipulation shall become effective as set forth in ¶ 34 below.

(q) “Escrow Account” means the interest-bearing account maintained by the Escrow Agent and controlled by Bond Counsel into which the Settlement Amount shall be deposited.

(r) “Escrow Agent” means Valley National Bank.

(s) “Final” when referring to an order or judgment means the expiration of any time for appeal or review of the Order and Final Judgment, or, if any appeal is filed and not dismissed, after the Order and Final Judgment is upheld on appeal in all material respects and is no longer subject to review upon appeal or review by certiorari or otherwise, and the time for any petition for reargument, appeal or review, by certiorari or otherwise, has expired; or, in the event that the District Court enters an order and final judgment in a form other than that provided above (“Alternative Judgment”) and none of the parties hereto elect to terminate this Settlement, the date that such Alternative Judgment is no longer subject to appeal or review by certiorari or otherwise, and the time for any petition for reargument, appeal or review, by certiorari or otherwise, has expired *provided, however*, that any disputes or appeals relating to amount, payment or allocation of attorneys’ fees and expenses or the Plan of Allocation shall have no effect on finality for purposes of determining the date on which the Order and Final Judgment becomes Final.

(t) “Former Defendants” means ANZ Securities, Inc.; Banc of America Securities, LLC; Barclays Capital Inc.; BB&T Capital Markets, a division of Scott & Stringfellow, Inc.; BBVA Securities, Inc.; Blaylock Robert Van, LLC; BMO Capital Markets Corp.; BNY Mellon Financial Markets LLC, independently and as successor to BNY Capital Markets, Inc. and Mellon Financial Markets, LLC.; Cabrera Capital Markets, LLC; CastleOak Securities L.P.; Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.; CIBC World Markets Corp.; Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC; D.A. Davidson & Co.; Davenport & Company LLC; Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.; Ferris, Baker Watts, Incorporated; Fidelity Capital Markets, a division of National Financial Services LLC; Fifth Third Securities, Inc.; Fixed Income Securities, Inc.; Fortis Securities LLC; FTN Financial Securities Corp.; Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc.; H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc.; HSBC Securities (USA); HVB Capital Markets, Inc.; J.B. Hanauer & Co.; J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc.; Jackson Securities LLC; Janney Montgomery Scott LLC; Jefferies & Company, Inc.; KBC Financial Products USA, Inc.; Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.; KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc.; Loop Capital Markets; Mesirov Financial, Inc.; Mizuho Securities USA Inc.; Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.; Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc.; nabCapital Securities, LLC; NatCity Investments, Inc.; Natixis Bleichroeder Inc.; Oppenheimer & Co., Inc.; Pershing LLC; PNC Capital Markets LLC; Raymond James & Associates, Inc.; RBC Capital Markets Corporation, independently and as successor to RBC Dain Rauscher Inc.; Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated; Samuel A. Ramirez & Co., Inc.; Santander Investment Securities Inc.; Sterne Agee Capital Markets, Inc.; Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated; Stone & Youngberg LLC; TD Ameritrade, Inc.; The Williams Capital Group, L.P.; Toussaint Capital Partners, LLC; UniCredit Capital Markets, Inc.; Utendahl Capital Partners, L.P.; Vining-Sparks IBG, Limited Partnership; Wachovia Securities, Inc.; Wedbush Morgan Securities Inc.;

William Blair & Company, L.L.C.; Zions Direct, Inc. (collectively the “Former Underwriter Defendants”); and Deloitte & Touche, LLP.

(u) “Individual Defendants” means E. Stanley O’Neal, John A. Thain, Jeffrey N. Edwards, Laurence A. Tosi, Ahmass L. Fakahany, Gregory J. Fleming, Armando M. Codina, Jill K. Conway, Alberto Cribiore, John D. Finnegan, Heinz-Joachim Neubürger, David K. Newbigging, Aulana L. Peters, Joseph W. Prueher, Ann N. Reese, Charles O. Rossotti, Virgis W. Colbert, Judith Mayhew Jonas and Carol T. Christ.

(v) “Investment Vehicle” means any investment company or pooled investment fund, including but not limited to mutual fund families, exchange-traded funds, fund of funds and hedge funds, in which any Underwriter Defendant or Former Underwriter Defendant has or may have a direct or indirect interest. However, any Claim Form submitted by an Investment Vehicle shall be limited to purchases made on behalf of or for the benefit of persons and/or entities other than persons and/or entities that are excluded from the Class by definition. This definition does not bring into the Class any of the Underwriter Defendants or Former Underwriter Defendants.

(w) “Net Settlement Fund” means the Settlement Fund less: (i) any Taxes and Tax Expenses; (ii) any Notice and Administration Costs; and (iii) any attorneys’ fees and litigation expenses awarded by the District Court.

(x) “Notice and Administration Costs” means the costs, fees and expenses that are incurred by the Claims Administrator and Bond Counsel in connection with (i) providing notice to the Settlement Class; and (ii) administering the Claims process.

(y) “Order and Final Judgment” means the order(s) and final judgment(s) to be entered in this Bond Action pursuant to ¶ 31 of this Settlement Stipulation substantially in the form of Exhibit B hereto.

(z) “Payor Defendant” means Merrill, the entity that is funding the Settlement.

(aa) “Person” and “Persons” means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, affiliate, joint stock company, estate, trust, unincorporated association, entity, government and any political subdivision thereof, or any other type of business or legal entity.

(bb) “Plaintiffs” means the Bond Plaintiffs and the Additional Plaintiffs collectively.

(cc) “Plaintiffs’ Counsel” means Bond Counsel and the firms of Klausner & Kaufman, P.A., Saxena White P.A., The Pomerantz Law Firm, and Sullivan, Ward, Asher & Patton, PC.

(dd) “Plan of Allocation” means the proposed plan for allocating the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants as set forth in the Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class.

(ee) “Preliminary Approval Order” means the Order Preliminarily Approving Settlement and Providing for Notice that the Bond Counsel and counsel for Defendants will seek from the District Court, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A and as described in ¶ 30 below.

(ff) “Publication Notice” means the summary notice of pendency and proposed settlement for publication substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A-3.

(gg) “Released Claims” means any and all claims, actions, debts, demands, set-offs (both legal and equitable), causes of action, rights or liabilities whatsoever (including, but not limited to, any claims for damages, equitable relief, interest, attorneys’ fees, expert or consulting fees, and any other costs, expenses or liability whatsoever), whether based on federal, state, foreign, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, local, statutory or common law or any other law, rule or regulation, whether fixed or contingent, accrued or un-accrued, liquidated or un-liquidated, at law or in equity, matured or un-matured, whether direct, representative, class, individual or in any other form, including both known claims and Unknown Claims (defined below), that have been or could have been asserted in any forum by the Settlement Class Members against any of the Released Parties, which arise out of or relate to or are based in whole or in part upon any of the allegations, transactions, facts, matters or occurrences, representations, disclosures, statements or omissions alleged, involved, set forth, or referred to in the Amended Complaint, in connection with such Settlement Class Members’ purchase or acquisition of Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period. Released Claims includes only the claims that were or could have been asserted on behalf of purchasers or acquirers of the Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period. Released Claims specifically excludes the claims asserted in (1) all securities class actions consolidated into docket number 07cv9633 by order dated March 12, 2008; (2) all derivative actions consolidated into docket number 07cv9696 by order dated March 12, 2008, the derivative action captioned *Lambrecht v. O’Neal*, 08cv6582, and all derivative actions involving substantially similar facts; (3) the ERISA actions consolidated into docket number 07cv10268 by order dated March 12, 2008 and (4) all actions consolidated into docket number 08cv10841(JSR) by orders entered April 2, 2009, May 19, 2009 and May 21, 2009. It is also expressly understood that no release is

given to any Released Party in connection with any purchase, acquisition, or retention of BAC securities by any purchaser, acquirer, or holder of BAC securities, other than with respect to 8.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 8 (060505559 formerly known as 59023V373) through and including January 15, 2009.

(hh) “Released Parties” means Defendants, the Former Underwriter Defendants, Deloitte, and their respective heirs, executors, personal representatives, estates and administrators; their respective past, present and future parent entities, affiliates, related parties, subsidiaries, predecessors and successors; and each of their respective past, present and future assigns, insurers, partners, officers, directors, controlling persons, representatives, employees, agents, attorneys, counsel, underwriters, and financial or investment advisors..

(ii) “Released Parties’ Claims” means any and all claims, rights or causes of action or liabilities whatsoever, whether based on federal, state, foreign, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, local, statutory or common law or any other law, rule or regulation, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, that have been or could have been asserted in the Bond Action or any forum by the Released Parties or any of them or the successors and assigns of any of them against any of the Plaintiffs, Lead Plaintiff in the Consolidated Securities Action State Teachers’ Retirement System of Ohio (“STRS”), other Settlement Class Members or their attorneys, which arise out of or relate in any way to the institution, prosecution, or settlement of the Bond Action (except for claims to enforce the Settlement).

(jj) “Settlement” means the settlement as set forth in this Settlement Stipulation.

(kk) “Settlement Amount” means one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) in cash.

(ll) “Settlement Class” or “Bond Class” means all persons and entities who purchased or otherwise acquired any Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period and were allegedly damaged thereby. Excluded from the Settlement Class are Merrill; BAC; the Individual Defendants; members of the immediate families of the Individual Defendants; the Underwriter Defendants; the Former Defendants; any entity in which any Defendant, Former Defendant or BAC has or had a controlling interest; the current and former directors and officers of or partners in: (i) Merrill; (ii) BAC; (iii) any of the Underwriter Defendants; or (iv) any of the Former Defendants, and the legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded person or entity, provided that any Investment Vehicle (as defined herein) shall not be deemed an excluded person or entity by definition. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are those persons or entities who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class.

(mm) “Settlement Class Members” means Persons who are members of the Settlement Class who do not timely and properly exclude themselves therefrom.

(nn) “Settlement Class Period” means the time period from the first date on which any of the Bond Class Securities were offered through and including January 15, 2009.

(oo) “Settlement Fund” means the Settlement Amount plus any interest earned thereon.

(pp) “Settlement Notice” means the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement which is to be sent to Settlement Class Members substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-1.

(qq) “Taxes” means any taxes due and payable with respect to the income earned by the Settlement Fund, including any interest or penalties thereon.

(rr) “Tax Expenses” means any expenses and costs incurred in connection with the payment of Taxes (including, without limitation, expenses of tax attorneys and/or accountants and other advisors and expenses relating to the filing or failure to file all necessary or advisable tax returns).

(ss) “Underwriter Defendants” means Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., UBS Securities LLC, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC.

(tt) “Unknown Claims” means any and all Released Claims that Plaintiffs and any other Settlement Class Member do not know or suspect to exist in his, her or its favor at the time of the release of the Released Parties and any and all Released Parties’ Claims that any Defendant or other Released Party does not know or suspect to exist in his, her or its favor, which if known by him, her or it might have affected his, her or its decision(s) with respect to the Settlement. With respect to any and all Released Claims and Released Parties’ Claims, the parties stipulate and agree that upon the Effective Date, Bond Plaintiffs and Defendants shall expressly, and each of the other Settlement Class Members and each of the other Released Parties shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Order and Final 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 Cal. Civ. Code § 1542, which provides:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor.

Bond Plaintiffs and Defendants acknowledge, and the other Settlement Class Members and the other Released Parties by operation of law shall be deemed to have acknowledged, that the inclusion of "Unknown Claims" in the definition of Released Claims and Released Parties' Claims was separately bargained for and was a key element of the Settlement.

CLASS CERTIFICATION

2. Solely for purposes of the Settlement and for no other purpose, Defendants stipulate and agree to: (a) certification of the Bond Action as a class action pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of the Settlement Class; (b) appointment of Bond Plaintiffs as Class Representatives; and (c) appointment of Bond Counsel as Class Counsel pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Bond Plaintiffs and Defendants will move for entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, which will certify the Bond Action to proceed as a class action solely for purposes of the Settlement and for no other purpose.

SCOPE AND EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT

3. The obligations incurred pursuant to this Settlement Stipulation shall be in full and final disposition of the Bond Action as against Defendants and any and all Released Claims as against all Released Parties. It is an important element to the Defendants' participation in the Settlement that the Released Parties obtain the fullest possible release from further liability to any Settlement Class Member relating to the Released Claims, and it is the intention of the parties to this Settlement that all further liability of Defendants and the Released Parties relating to the Released Claims hereby be eliminated.

4. (a) Upon the Effective Date of this Settlement, Bond Plaintiffs and all other Settlement Class Members (including but not limited to any Settlement Class Member who is a

party to any other action, arbitration or other proceeding who is asserting any Released Claims against any of the Defendants or other Released Parties that are pending on the Effective Date), whether or not such Person submits a Proof of Claim on behalf of themselves, their heirs, joint tenants, tenants in common, beneficiaries, executors and administrators, predecessors, successors and assigns, release and shall be deemed to have released, dismissed and forever discharged the Released Claims against each and all of the Released Parties, with prejudice and on the merits, without costs to any party.

(b) Upon the Effective Date of this Settlement, Bond Plaintiffs and all other Settlement Class Members, and anyone claiming through or on behalf of any of them, are 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, administrative forum, or other forum of any kind, asserting against any of the Released Parties, and each of them, any of the Released Claims.

(c) Upon the Effective Date of this Settlement, all claims for contribution, indemnification, or any other form of relief by other alleged joint tortfeasors against the Released Parties based upon, arising out of, relating to, or in connection with the Released Claims of the Settlement Class or any Settlement Class Member are barred, extinguished, discharged, satisfied and otherwise rendered unenforceable to the full extent permitted by law, and the future filing of any such claims is enjoined.

(d) Upon the Effective Date of this Settlement, Defendants and each of the other Released Parties, including any and all of their respective successors in interest, predecessors, representatives, trustees, executors, administrators, heirs, assigns or transferees, immediate and remote, and any Person or entity acting for or on behalf of, or claiming under any

of them, and each of them, release Plaintiffs, STRS, Bond Counsel, the other Settlement Class Members, counsel representing any of the aforementioned and each of their predecessors, successors, assigns, personal representatives, heirs and any other Person submitting a Claim on behalf of a Settlement Class Member in the Bond Action, from any and all Released Parties' Claims.

THE SETTLEMENT CONSIDERATION

5. On or before ten (10) business days following the date of the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, the Payor Defendant, in full and complete settlement of the Released Claims, shall pay the Settlement Amount into the Escrow Account established for the Settlement Fund by Bond Counsel for the benefit of the Settlement Class Members. The Settlement Fund shall be invested as provided in ¶ 7 hereof.

USE OF SETTLEMENT FUND

6. The Settlement Fund shall be used to pay (i) Taxes and Tax Expenses; (ii) Notice and Administration Costs, and (iii) any attorneys' fee and litigation expenses awarded by the District Court. The balance remaining in the Settlement Fund, i.e., the Net Settlement Fund, shall be distributed to the Authorized Claimants as provided in ¶¶ 18-25 hereof. All costs and expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Plaintiffs and the other members of the Settlement Class associated with the Settlement shall be paid from the Settlement Fund. In no event shall Defendants bear any further or additional responsibility for any such costs or expenses beyond payment of the Settlement Amount.

7. The Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Authorized Claimants as provided herein. Except as provided herein or pursuant to orders of the District Court, the Net Settlement Fund shall remain in the Escrow Account prior to the Effective Date. All funds held by the

Escrow Agent shall be deemed to be in the custody of the District Court and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the District Court until such time as the funds shall be distributed or returned pursuant to the terms of this Stipulation and/or further order of the District Court. The Escrow Agent shall invest any funds in the Escrow Account in United States Treasury Bills (or a mutual fund invested solely in such instruments) and shall collect and reinvest all interest accrued thereon, except that any residual cash balances of less than \$100,000 may be invested in money market mutual funds comprised exclusively of investments secured by the full faith and credit of the United States.

8. The parties hereto agree that the Settlement Fund is intended to be a Qualified Settlement Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1 and that Bond Counsel, as administrator of the Settlement Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-2(k)(3), shall be solely responsible for filing or causing to be filed all informational and other tax returns as may be necessary or appropriate (including, without limitation, the returns described in Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-2(k)) for the Settlement Fund. Such returns shall be consistent with this paragraph and in all events shall reflect that all taxes on the income earned on the Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund as provided by ¶ 9 below. Bond Counsel shall also be solely responsible for causing payment to be made from the Settlement Fund of any Taxes and Tax Expenses owed with respect to the Settlement Fund. Merrill will provide to Bond Counsel the statement described in Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-3(e). Bond Counsel, as administrator of the Settlement Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-2(k)(3), shall timely make such elections as are necessary or advisable to carry out this paragraph, including, as necessary, making a “relation back election,” as described in Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1(j), to cause the Qualified Settlement Fund to come into existence at the

earliest allowable date, and shall take or cause to be taken all actions as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith.

9. All Taxes (including any interest or penalties) and Tax Expenses shall be considered to be a cost of administration of the Settlement and shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund. The Released Parties shall not have any liability or responsibility for any such Taxes or Tax Expenses. Bond Counsel, or its agents, shall timely and properly file all informational and other tax returns necessary or advisable with respect to the Settlement Fund and the distributions and payments therefrom, including, without limitation, the tax returns described in Treas. Reg. §1.468B-2(k), and to the extent applicable, Treas. Reg. §1.468B-2(l). Such returns shall be consistent with the terms hereof and in all events shall reflect that all such Taxes, including any interest or penalties, on the income earned by the Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund, subject to the limitations set forth in this paragraph. Bond Counsel, or its agents, shall also timely pay Taxes and Tax Expenses, subject to the limitations set forth in this paragraph, out of the Settlement Fund, and are authorized to withdraw, without prior order of the District Court, from the Settlement Fund amounts necessary to pay Taxes and Tax Expenses. The parties hereto agree to cooperate with each other, and their tax attorneys and accountants to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this Stipulation. The Released Parties shall have no responsibility or liability for the acts or omissions of Bond Counsel or its agents, as described herein.

10. This is not a claims-made settlement. As of the Effective Date, neither Defendants nor any other Person who paid any portion of the Settlement Fund on any of their behalves, shall have any right to the return of the Settlement Fund or any portion thereof irrespective of the number of Claims filed, the collective amount of losses of Authorized

Claimants, the percentage of recovery of losses, or the amounts to be paid to Authorized Claimants from the Net Settlement Fund. Any undistributed money from the Settlement Fund that cannot be distributed cost effectively to Settlement Class Members shall be donated to one or more charities (as the District Court may approve upon the suggestion of Bond Counsel).

11. Bond Counsel shall cause the Claims Administrator to mail the Notice and Proof of Claim to those members of the Settlement Class at the address of each such person as set forth in the records of Merrill, the Underwriter Defendants or their transfer agent(s), or who otherwise may be identified through further reasonable effort. Bond Counsel will cause to be published the Publication Notice pursuant to the terms of the Preliminary Approval Order or whatever other form or manner might be ordered by the District Court. For the purpose of identifying and providing notice to the Class, within five (5) days of the date of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Merrill and the Underwriter Defendants shall provide or cause to be provided to the Claims Administrator (at no cost to the Settlement Fund, Bond Plaintiffs' Counsel or the Claims Administrator) its security holder lists (consisting of security holder names and addresses) for the Bond Class Securities, in electronic form.

12. Bond Counsel may pay up to \$750,000 from the Settlement Fund, without further approval from Defendants or further order of the Court, for reasonable Notice and Administration Costs actually incurred. Such costs and expenses shall include, without limitation, the actual costs of publication, printing and mailing the Notice, reimbursements to nominee owners for forwarding the Notice to their beneficial owners, the administrative expenses incurred and fees charged by the Claims Administrator in connection with providing Notice and processing the submitted claims, and the fees, if any, of the Escrow Agent. To the extent that Notice and Administration Costs exceed \$750,000, they may be paid only pursuant to

further Order of the Court. In the event that the Settlement is terminated pursuant to the terms of this Settlement Stipulation, all Notice and Administration Costs reasonably paid or reasonably incurred, including any related fees, shall not be returned or repaid to Merrill or to any other Person who paid any portion of the Settlement Fund on its behalf.

13. The finality of the Settlement shall not be conditioned on any ruling by the District Court concerning the Plan of Allocation or any award of attorneys' fees. Any order or proceeding relating to a request for approval of the Plan of Allocation, or any appeal from any order relating thereto or reversal or modification thereof, shall not operate to terminate the Settlement or affect or delay the Effective Date or the effectiveness or finality of the Order and Final Judgment and the release of the Released Claims. There shall be no distribution of any of the Settlement Fund to any Settlement Class Member until the Plan of Allocation is finally approved and such order of approval is affirmed on appeal and/or is no longer subject to review by appeal or certiorari, and the time for any petition for rehearing, appeal, or review, by certiorari or otherwise, has expired.

ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES

14. Bond Counsel, on behalf of all Plaintiffs' Counsel, will apply to the District Court for an award from the Settlement Fund of attorneys' fees plus reimbursement of actual expenses, plus interest. Such amounts as are awarded by the District Court shall be payable from the Settlement Fund to Bond Counsel. Bond Counsel shall allocate the attorneys' fees and expense awards amongst Plaintiffs' Counsel in a manner in which it in good faith believes reflects the contributions of such counsel to the prosecution and settlement of the Bond Action. Neither Defendants nor any other Released Party shall take any position with respect to Bond Counsel's

requested attorneys' fees and expenses. Such matters are not the subject of any agreement between Defendants and Bond Plaintiffs other than what is set forth in this Settlement Stipulation.

15. Defendants shall have no responsibility for, and no liability with respect to, the attorneys' fees or expenses that the District Court may award in the Bond Action or the allocation of the fees and expenses that Bond Counsel may make to other Plaintiffs' Counsel in connection with this Bond Action or any other person who may assert some claim thereto.

16. The procedure for and amounts of any award of attorneys' fees and expenses, and the allowance or disallowance by the District Court thereof, shall not be a condition of the Settlement. Bond Counsel shall request that its application for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses be considered by the District Court separately from the District Court's consideration of the fairness and adequacy of the Settlement. Any order or proceedings relating to such request, or any appeal from any order relating thereto or reversal or modification thereof, shall not operate to terminate the Settlement or affect the release of the Released Claims or the Released Parties' Claims. The finality of the Settlement shall not be conditioned on any ruling by the District Court concerning Bond Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and expenses.

17. The attorneys' fees and expenses awarded by the District Court shall be paid to Bond Counsel from the Settlement Fund immediately upon award by the District Court notwithstanding the existence of any timely filed objections thereto, or potential for appeal therefrom, or collateral attack on the Settlement or any part thereof, subject to Bond Counsel's obligation to make appropriate refunds or repayments to the Settlement Fund, plus accrued interest at the same net rate as is earned by the Settlement Fund, if the Settlement is terminated pursuant to the terms of this Stipulation or if, as a result of any appeal or further proceedings on remand, or successful collateral attack, the award of attorneys' fees and/or expenses is reduced or

reversed. Bond Counsel shall make the appropriate refund or repayment in full no later than ten (10) business days after receiving from Merrill's Counsel or from a court of appropriate jurisdiction notice of the termination of the Settlement or notice of any reduction of the award of attorneys' fees and/or expenses.

**DISTRIBUTION TO AUTHORIZED CLAIMANTS
AND ADMINISTRATION OF SETTLEMENT**

18. The Claims Administrator, subject to the supervision, direction and approval of Bond Counsel and the District Court, shall administer and calculate the Claims submitted by Settlement Class Members, oversee distribution of the Net Settlement Fund and perform all claims administration procedures necessary or appropriate in connection therewith. Other than Merrill's and the Underwriter Defendants' obligation to provide their transfer records for the Bond Class Securities as provided herein, Defendants and the other Released Parties shall have no liability, obligation or responsibility for the Settlement Notice, administration or processing of claims or of the Settlement or disbursement of the Net Settlement Fund, including without limitation, determinations as to the validity of any Proof of Claim, the amounts of claims, distributions of the Settlement Fund, or any loss incurred by the Escrow Agent or the Claims Administrator. Defendants shall cooperate in the administration of the Settlement to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate its terms.

19. The Claims Administrator shall receive Claims and determine first, whether the Claim is a valid Claim, in whole or part, and second, each Authorized Claimant's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Fund based upon each Authorized Claimant's Loss Amount compared to the total Loss Amounts of all Authorized Claimants (as set forth in the Plan of Allocation set forth in the Notice attached hereto as Exhibit A-1, or in such other plan of allocation as the District Court approves).

20. The Plan of Allocation proposed in the Notice is not a necessary term of this Settlement Stipulation and it is not a condition of this Settlement Stipulation that any particular plan of allocation be approved by the District Court. Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel may not cancel or terminate the Settlement Stipulation or the Settlement based on the District Court's or any appellate court's ruling with respect to the Plan of Allocation or any plan of allocation in the Bond Action. Neither Defendants, nor any other Released Party, shall have any responsibility or liability whatsoever for allocation of the Net Settlement Fund.

21. Any Settlement Class Member who does not submit a valid Claim Form will not be entitled to receive any distribution from the Net Settlement Fund but will otherwise be bound by all of the terms of this Settlement Stipulation and Settlement, including the terms of the Order and Final Judgment to be entered in the Bond Action and the releases provided for herein, and will be permanently barred and enjoined from bringing any action, claim, or other proceeding of any kind against any Released Party for any Released Claim.

22. Bond Counsel shall be responsible for supervising the administration of the Settlement and disbursement of the Net Settlement Fund. Neither Defendants, nor any other Released Party, shall have any liability, obligation or responsibility whatsoever for the administration of the Settlement or disbursement of the Net Settlement Fund. Neither Defendants, nor any other Released Party, shall be permitted to review, contest or object to any Claim Form or any decision of the Claims Administrator or Bond Counsel with respect to accepting or rejecting any Claim Form or Claim for payment by a Settlement Class Member. Bond Counsel shall have the right, but not the obligation, to waive what they deem to be formal or technical defects in any Claim Forms submitted in the interests of achieving substantial justice.

23. For purposes of determining the extent, if any, to which a Settlement Class Member shall be entitled to be treated as an “Authorized Claimant,” the following conditions shall apply:

(a) Each Settlement Class Member seeking to participate in distributions from the Net Settlement Fund shall be required timely to submit to the Claims Administrator a separate signed Proof of Claim (substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-2), supported by such documents as are designated therein, including proof of all purchases and sales of subject securities during the Settlement Class Period, the Claimant’s loss, or such other documents or proof as the Claims Administrator or Bond Counsel, in their discretion, may deem acceptable;

(b) All Proofs of Claim must be submitted by the date specified in the Settlement Notice unless such period is extended by Order of the District Court. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to submit a Proof of Claim within such period shall be forever barred from receiving any payment pursuant to this Settlement Stipulation (unless, by Order of the District Court, a later submitted Proof of Claim by such Settlement Class Member is approved), but in all other respects shall be subject to and bound by the provisions of this Settlement Stipulation and the Settlement, including the terms of the Order and Final Judgment to be entered in the Bond Action and the releases provided for herein, and will be barred from bringing any action or proceeding against the Released Parties asserting any of the Released Claims. A Proof of Claim shall be deemed to have been submitted when postmarked, if received with a postmark indicated on the envelope and if mailed by first-class mail, postage prepaid, and addressed in accordance with the instructions thereon. In all other cases, the Proof of Claim shall be deemed to have been submitted when actually received by the Claims Administrator;

(c) Each Proof of Claim shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Claims Administrator, under the supervision of Bond Counsel, who shall determine in accordance with this Settlement Stipulation the extent, if any, to which each claim shall be allowed, subject to review by the District Court pursuant to subparagraph (e) below;

(d) Proofs of Claim that do not meet the submission requirements may be rejected. Prior to rejection of a Proof of Claim in whole or in part, the Claims Administrator shall communicate with the Claimant in writing in order to afford the Claimant opportunity to remedy any curable deficiencies in the Proof of Claims submitted. The Claims Administrator, under the supervision of Bond Counsel, shall notify, in a timely fashion and in writing, all Claimants whose Proofs of Claim it proposes to reject in whole or in part, setting forth the reasons therefor, and shall indicate in such notice that the Claimant whose claim is to be rejected has the right to a review by the District Court if the Claimant so desires and complies with the requirements of subparagraph (e) below;

(e) If any Claimant whose claim has been rejected in whole or in part desires to contest such rejection, the Claimant must, within twenty (20) days after the date of mailing of the notice required in subparagraph (d) above, 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 District Court. If a dispute concerning a claim cannot be otherwise resolved, Bond Counsel shall thereafter present the request for review to the District Court; and

(f) The administrative determinations of the Claims Administrator accepting and rejecting claims shall be presented to the District Court, on notice to Defendants' Counsel, for approval by the District Court.

24. Each Claimant shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the District Court with respect to his, her or its claim, and the claim will be subject to investigation and discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, provided that such investigation and discovery shall be limited to the Claimant's status as a Settlement Class Member and the validity and amount of the Claimant's claim. No discovery shall be allowed on the merits of the Bond Action or Settlement in connection with processing of the Proofs of Claim.

25. Bond Counsel will apply to the District Court, on notice to all Defendants, for a Class Distribution Order: (i) approving the Claims Administrator's administrative determinations concerning the acceptance and rejection of the claims submitted; (ii) approving payment of any administration fees and expenses associated with the administration of the Settlement from the Escrow Account, and (iii) if the Effective Date has occurred, directing payment of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants from the Escrow Account.

26. No Settlement Class Member or Authorized Claimant shall have any claim against Bond Counsel, Bond Plaintiffs, any other Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel in the Bond Action, STRS or its counsel, Defendants or their counsel, any other Released Party or their counsel, the Claims Administrator or any employees or agents of any of the foregoing, based on the distributions made substantially in accordance with this Settlement Stipulation or as otherwise approved or directed by the District Court. Payment pursuant to the Class Distribution Order shall be final and conclusive against all Settlement Class Members. All Settlement Class Members whose claims are not approved by the District Court shall be barred from participating in distributions from the Net Settlement Fund, but otherwise shall be subject to and bound by all of the provisions of this Settlement Stipulation and the Settlement, including the terms of the Order and Final Judgment to be entered in the Bond Action and the releases provided for therein,

and will be permanently barred from bringing any action against the Released Parties asserting any of the Released Claims.

27. 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 District Court.

28. The Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Authorized Claimants by the Claims Administrator only after the Effective Date and after: (i) all timely Proofs of Claim have been processed and all Claimants whose claims have been rejected or disallowed, in whole or in part, have been notified and provided the opportunity to be heard concerning such rejection or disallowance; (ii) all objections with respect to all rejected or disallowed claims have been resolved by the District Court, and all appeals therefrom have been resolved or the time therefor has expired; and (iii) all matters with respect to attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements have been resolved by the District Court, all appeals therefrom have been resolved or the time therefor has expired.

29. Following distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, the Claims Administrator shall maintain the completed Proofs of Claim on file for three years after the Effective Date.

**TERMS OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER IN
CONNECTION WITH SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS**

30. Promptly after execution of this Settlement Stipulation, Bond Plaintiffs, by and through Bond Counsel, with Defendants' Counsel's consent, shall submit the Settlement Stipulation together with its Exhibits to the District Court and shall apply for entry of the Preliminary Approval Order in Connection with Settlement Proceedings substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

TERMS OF ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT

31. Bond Plaintiffs, by and through Bond Counsel, with Defendants' Counsel's consent, shall request that the District Court enter an Order and Final Judgment substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit B. The Settlement is expressly conditioned upon, among other things, the entry of an Order and Final Judgment substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit B.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

32. Simultaneously herewith, Bond Plaintiffs, by and through Bond Counsel, and the Payor Defendant are executing a "Supplemental Agreement" setting forth certain conditions under which this Settlement Stipulation may be withdrawn or terminated at the discretion of the Payor Defendant if potential Settlement Class Members who meet certain criteria exclude themselves from the Settlement Class. The Supplemental Agreement shall not be filed with the District Court except that the substantive contents of the Supplemental Agreement may be brought to the attention of the District Court, *in camera*, if so requested by the District Court or as otherwise ordered by the District Court. The parties will keep the terms of the Supplemental Agreement confidential, except if compelled by judicial process to disclose the Supplemental Agreement. In the event of a withdrawal from this Settlement Stipulation pursuant to the Supplemental Agreement, this Settlement Stipulation shall become null and void and of no further force and effect. In the event the Settlement and this Settlement Stipulation are terminated, the provisions of ¶¶ 27, 36-38, 45 and 56 shall survive termination. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Settlement Stipulation shall not become null and void as a result of the election by the Payor Defendant to exercise its option to withdraw from the Settlement Stipulation pursuant to the Supplemental Agreement until the conditions set forth in the

Supplemental Agreement have been satisfied.

DUE DILIGENCE

33. The Settlement is subject to the completion of reasonable due diligence by Bond Plaintiffs. Among other things, the due diligence shall include proffers as to, and documents and information regarding, the then-known status of any governmental investigations and proceedings relating to the claims asserted in the Amended Complaint and any contemplated restatement of Merrill's financial statements. The due diligence shall be subject to a confidentiality agreement so ordered by the District Court and shall be for the sole purpose of assessing the reasonableness and adequacy of the Settlement, the scope and timing of which shall be reasonable and mutually agreed upon by the parties. Bond Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all other Plaintiffs, by and through Bond Counsel, shall have the right to withdraw from the proposed Settlement at any time prior to filing their motion for final approval of the parties' proposed Settlement if, in their discretion, information is produced during the due diligence that renders the proposed Settlement unfair, unreasonable and inadequate. In the event that the Settlement is terminated for any reason or if the Effective Date fails to occur, Bond Plaintiffs shall return all materials made available to them as part of their due diligence and are prohibited from using any facts learned in the due diligence in any subsequent complaint unless and until such facts are later obtained during the course of the litigation.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF SETTLEMENT, WAIVER OR TERMINATION

34. The Effective Date of Settlement shall be the latest date when all the following shall have occurred:

- (a) entry of the Preliminary Approval Order;

(b) approval by the District Court of the Settlement and certification of the Settlement Class following notice to the Settlement Class and a hearing in accordance with Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; and

(c) entry by the District Court of an Order and Final Judgment and the expiration of any time for appeal or review of the Order and Final Judgment, or, if any appeal is filed and not dismissed, after the Order and Final Judgment is upheld on appeal in all material respects and is no longer subject to review upon appeal or review by certiorari or otherwise, and the time for any petition for reargument, appeal or review, by certiorari or otherwise, has expired, or, in the event that the District Court enters an Alternative Judgment and none of the parties hereto elects to terminate this Settlement, the date that such Alternative Judgment becomes final and no longer subject to appeal or review by certiorari or otherwise, and the time for any petition for reargument, appeal or review, by certiorari or otherwise, has expired.

35. Payor Defendant and Bond Plaintiffs, provided they unanimously agree, shall have the right to terminate the Settlement and this Settlement Stipulation by providing written notice of their election to do so (“Termination Notice”) to the other within ten (10) days of the date on which: (a) the District Court declines to enter the Preliminary Approval Order in any material respect; (b) the District Court refuses to approve this Settlement Stipulation or any material part of it; (c) the District Court declines to enter the Order and Final Judgment in any material respect; (d) the Order and Final Judgment is vacated, modified or reversed in any material respect; (e) an Alternative Judgment is vacated, modified or reversed in any material respect; or (f) the Effective Date of Settlement otherwise does not occur. Defendants, provided they unanimously agree, may also terminate the Settlement and this Settlement Stipulation pursuant to ¶ 32. The foregoing list is not intended to limit or impair the parties’ rights under the

law of contracts of the State of New York with respect to any breach of this Settlement Stipulation. In the event the Settlement and this Settlement Stipulation are terminated, the provisions of ¶¶ 27, 36-38, 45 and 56 shall survive termination.

36. In the event the Settlement and this Settlement Stipulation are terminated or if the Effective Date fails to occur for any reason, the parties to this Settlement Stipulation shall be deemed to have reverted *nunc pro tunc* to their respective status in the Bond Action as of April 27, 2009, and except as otherwise expressly provided, the parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Settlement Stipulation and any related orders had not been entered and without any prejudice in any way from the negotiation, fact or terms of this Settlement.

37. In the event this Settlement Stipulation is terminated or if the Effective Date fails to occur for any reason, then within ten (10) business days after written notice is sent by Bond Counsel or Defendants' Counsel, the balance of the Settlement Fund, less any Notice and Administration Expenses paid or incurred and less any Taxes and Tax Expenses paid, incurred, or owing, shall be refunded to the Payor Defendant, including interest accrued thereon. In such event, the parties to this Settlement Stipulation shall be deemed to have reverted *nunc pro tunc* to their respective status as of the date and time immediately before April 27, 2009 and, except as otherwise expressly provided, they shall proceed in all respects as if this Settlement Stipulation and related orders had not been entered and without prejudice in any way from the negotiation, fact or terms of this Settlement.

NO ADMISSION OF WRONGDOING

38. This Settlement Stipulation, whether or not consummated, and any proceedings taken pursuant to it:

(a) shall not be offered or received against Defendants, other Released Parties, Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class as evidence of, or be deemed to be evidence of, any presumption, concession or admission by any of the Defendants or other Released Parties or by Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class with respect to the truth of any fact alleged by Bond Plaintiffs or the validity, or lack thereof, of any claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Bond Action or in any litigation, or the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Bond Action or in any litigation, or of any liability, negligence, fault or wrongdoing of Defendants or other Released Parties;

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

(c) shall not be offered or received against the Released Parties, Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class as evidence of a presumption, concession or admission with respect to any liability, negligence, fault or wrongdoing, or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the parties to this Settlement Stipulation, in any arbitration proceeding or other civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Settlement Stipulation; provided, however, that if this Settlement Stipulation is approved by the District Court, the Released Parties may refer to it to effectuate the liability protection granted them hereunder;

(d) shall not be construed against the Released Parties, Bond Counsel or Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class as an admission or concession that the consideration to be given hereunder represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial; and

(e) shall not be construed as or received in evidence as an admission, concession or presumption against Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class or any of them that any of their claims are without merit or that damages recoverable under the Amended Complaint would not have exceeded the Settlement Fund.

39. This Settlement Stipulation and the Settlement may be pleaded as a full and complete defense to any action, suit or other proceeding that may be instituted, prosecuted or attempted with respect to any of the Released Claims. The Released Parties may offer the Settlement Stipulation or Order and Final Judgment from the Bond Action in any other action that may be brought against them by any Settlement Class Member or other Released Party 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 similar defense or counterclaim. The Settlement Class Members and Defendants agree that any such proceeding would cause irreparable injury to the party against whom it is brought and that the District Court or any court of competent jurisdiction may enter an injunction restraining the prosecution of such proceeding.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

40. All of the Exhibits attached hereto are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that there exists a conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Settlement Stipulation and the terms of any exhibit hereto, the terms of this Settlement Stipulation shall prevail.

41. Merrill warrants that, as to the payments made by or on behalf of it, at the time of such payment that Merrill made or caused to be made pursuant to ¶ 5 above, Merrill was not insolvent, nor will the payment required to be made by or on behalf of Merrill render Merrill insolvent, within the meaning of and/or for the purposes of the United States Bankruptcy Code, including §§ 101 and 547 thereof. This representation is made by Merrill and not by Merrill's Counsel.

42. If a case is commenced in respect of Merrill (or any Person contributing funds to the Settlement Fund on behalf of Merrill) under Title 11 of the United States Code (Bankruptcy), or a trustee, receiver, conservator, or other fiduciary is appointed under any similar law, and in the event of the entry of a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction determining the transfer of money to the Settlement Fund or any portion thereof by or on behalf of Merrill to be a preference, voidable transfer, fraudulent transfer or similar transaction and any portion thereof is required to be returned, and such amount is not promptly deposited to the Settlement Fund by others, then, at the election of Bond Counsel, the parties shall jointly move the Court to vacate and set aside the releases given and the Order and Final Judgment entered in favor of Merrill and the other Released Parties pursuant to this Stipulation, which releases and judgment shall be null and void, and the parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the litigation immediately prior to April 27, 2009, and any cash amounts in the Settlement Fund shall be returned as provided in ¶ 37 above.

43. This Settlement Stipulation may not be modified or amended, nor may any of its provisions be waived except by a writing signed by all parties hereto or their successors-in-interest.

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

45. Neither the Settlement Stipulation nor the Settlement, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in furtherance of the Settlement Stipulation or the Settlement: (a) is or may be deemed to be or may be used as an admission or evidence of the validity of any Released Claim or of any wrongdoing or liability of any of the Released Parties; or (b) is or may be deemed to be or may be used as an admission or evidence of any fault or omission of any of the Released Parties in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in any court, any arbitration proceeding or any administrative agency or other tribunal, other than in such proceedings as may be necessary to consummate or enforce the Settlement Stipulation, the Settlement or the Order and Final Judgment.

46. The parties to this Settlement Stipulation intend the Settlement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes asserted or which could be asserted by the Settlement Class Members against the Released Parties with respect to the Released Claims. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and Defendants agree not to assert any claim under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or any similar law, rule or regulation, that the Bond Action was brought or defended in bad faith or without a reasonable basis. The parties to this Settlement Stipulation agree that the amount paid and the other terms of the Settlement were negotiated at arm's-length in good faith by the parties, and reflect a settlement that was reached voluntarily based upon adequate information and after consultation with experienced legal counsel.

47. While retaining their right to deny that the claims asserted in the Bond Action were meritorious, Defendants in any statement made to any media representative (whether or not for attribution) will not deny that the Bond Action was commenced and prosecuted in good faith

and is being settled voluntarily after consultation with competent legal counsel. In all events, Plaintiffs and Defendants shall refrain from any accusations of wrongful or actionable conduct by either party concerning the prosecution and resolution of the Bond Action, and shall not otherwise suggest that the Settlement constitutes an admission of any claim or defense alleged.

48. The waiver by one party of any breach of this Settlement Stipulation by any other party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other prior or subsequent breach of this Settlement Stipulation.

49. This Settlement Stipulation and its exhibits constitute the entire agreement among these parties, and no representations, warranties or inducements have been made to any party concerning this Settlement Stipulation or its exhibits, other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in such documents.

50. This Settlement Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts, including by signature transmitted via facsimile, or by a .pdf/.tif image of the signature transmitted via e-mail. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument.

51. The parties hereto and their respective counsel of record agree that they will use their best efforts to obtain all necessary approvals of the District Court required by this Settlement Stipulation.

52. Each counsel signing this Settlement Stipulation represents that such counsel has authority to sign this Settlement Stipulation on behalf of Plaintiffs or Defendants, as the case may be and that they have the authority to take appropriate action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to this Settlement Stipulation to effectuate its terms.

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

54. Notices required by this Settlement Stipulation shall be submitted either by any form of overnight mail or in person to each of:

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Attorneys for Defendant Laurence A. Tosi

Notice shall be deemed effective upon receipt.

55. The administration, consummation and enforcement of the Settlement as embodied in this Settlement Stipulation shall be under the authority of the District Court and the parties intend that the District Court retain jurisdiction for the purpose of entering orders,

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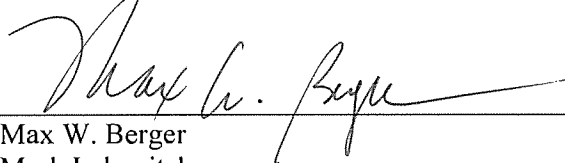
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providing for awards of attorneys' fees and expenses to Bond Counsel, and enforcing the terms of this Settlement Stipulation and the Settlement.

56. The construction, interpretation, operation, effect and validity of this Settlement Stipulation, and all documents necessary to effectuate it, shall be governed by the internal laws of the State of New York without regard to conflicts of laws, except to the extent that federal law requires that federal law governs.

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

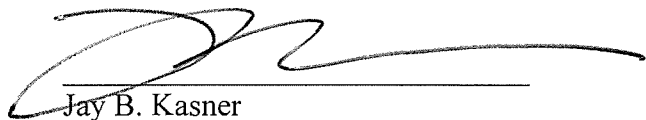
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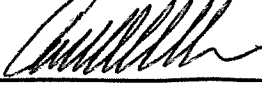
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Attorney for Defendant John A. Thain

Exhibit A

IN RE MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
SECURITIES, DERIVATIVE AND ERISA
LITIGATION

Master File No. 07-cv-9633 (JSR)(DFE)

This Document Relates To:
Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, et al.
v. Conway, et al., 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE)

**[PROPOSED] ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT
AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE**

WHEREAS:

A. Plaintiffs Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System ("Bond Plaintiffs") and Defendants Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("Merrill"); E. Stanley O'Neal, John A. Thain, Jeffrey N. Edwards, Laurence A. Tosi, Ahmass L. Fakahany, Gregory J. Fleming, Armando M. Codina, Jill K. Conway, Alberto Cribiore, John D. Finnegan, Heinz-Joachim Neubürger, David K. Newbigging, Aulana L. Peters, Joseph W. Prueher, Ann N. Reese, Charles O. Rossotti, Virgis W. Colbert, Judith Mayhew Jonas and Carol T. Christ (the "Individual Defendants"); and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., UBS Securities LLC, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC (the "Underwriter Defendants," and together with Merrill and the Individual Defendants, the "Defendants") have entered into a settlement of the claims asserted in the Bond Action, the terms of which are set forth in the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement dated August 12, 2009 (the "Settlement Stipulation"), which is subject to review under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and which, together with the exhibits thereto, sets forth the

terms and conditions of the proposed settlement of the claims asserted in the Bond Action on the merits and with prejudice, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Stipulation (the “Settlement”); and

B. The Court having read and considered the Settlement Stipulation and exhibits thereto, including the proposed (i) Settlement Notice; (ii) Claim Form; (iii) Publication Notice; and (iv) Order and Final Judgment, and submissions relating thereto, and finding that substantial and sufficient grounds exist for entering this Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Court, for purposes of this Order, adopts all defined terms as set forth in the Settlement Stipulation.

2. Pursuant to Rules 23(a) (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and for the purposes of the Settlement only, the Bond Action which is part of this consolidated litigation is hereby preliminarily certified as a class action on behalf of all persons and entities who purchased or otherwise acquired any Bond Class Securities (as listed in the Settlement Stipulation at paragraph 1(e)) during the time period from the first date on which any of the Bond Class Securities were offered through and including January 15, 2009, and were allegedly damaged thereby (the “Settlement Class”). Excluded from the Settlement Class are Merrill; BAC; the Individual Defendants; members of the immediate families of the Individual Defendants; the Underwriter Defendants; the Former Defendants; any entity in which any Defendant, Former Defendant or BAC has or had a controlling interest; the current and former directors and officers of or partners in: (i) Merrill; (ii) BAC; (iii) any of the Underwriter Defendants; or (iv) any of the Former Defendants, and the legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded person or entity, provided that any Investment

Vehicle shall not be deemed an excluded person or entity by definition. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are those persons or entities who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class.

3. The Court finds, preliminarily and for the purposes 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 Settlement Class Members is so numerous that joinder of all members thereof is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to each member of the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of the Bond Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class they seek to represent; (d) Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel have and will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Class; (e) the questions of law and fact common to the members of the Settlement Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Settlement Class; and (f) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

4. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, preliminarily and for the purposes of Settlement only, Bond Plaintiffs Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System are certified as Class Representatives on behalf of the Settlement Class and Bond Counsel is hereby appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.

5. The Court preliminarily approves the Settlement on the terms set forth in the Settlement Stipulation, subject to further consideration at the final approval hearing to be held before this Court on _____, 2009, at _:_ .m., at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10007 (the "Settlement Hearing"):

(a) to determine whether the Bond Action should be finally certified, for settlement purposes, as a class action under Rules 23(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

(b) to determine whether the proposed Settlement on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement Stipulation is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved by the Court;

(c) to determine whether the Order and Final Judgment as provided for under the Settlement Stipulation should be entered, dismissing the Bond Action, on the merits and with prejudice, and to determine whether the release by the Settlement Class of the Released Parties, as set forth in the Settlement Stipulation, should be ordered;

(d) to determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation for the net proceeds of the Settlement is fair and reasonable and should be approved by the Court;

(e) to determine whether the application by Bond Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses incurred should be approved; and

(f) to rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

6. The Court reserves the right to approve the Settlement and/or the Plan of Allocation with or without modification and with or without further notice of any kind. The Court further reserves the right to enter its Order and Final Judgment approving the Settlement and dismissing the Bond Action on the merits and with prejudice, regardless of whether it has approved the Plan of Allocation or awarded attorneys' fees and litigation expenses.

7. Bond Counsel have the authority to enter into the Settlement Stipulation on behalf of the Settlement Class and are authorized to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Members with

respect to all acts or consents required by or that may be given pursuant to the Settlement Stipulation, such as other acts that are reasonably necessary to consummate the Settlement.

8. The Court approves the form, substance and requirements of the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement, Settlement Fairness Hearing and Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses (the "Settlement Notice"); the Summary Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement, Settlement Fairness Hearing and Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses ("Publication Notice") (together, the "Notices"); and the Proof of Claim and Release form ("Claim Form"), and finds that the procedures established for publication, mailing and distribution of such Notices and the Claim Form substantially in the manner and form set forth in this Order constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances and are in full compliance with the notice requirements of due process, Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Section 27 of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. §77z-1(a)(7), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Under no circumstances shall any Settlement Class Member be relieved from the terms of the Settlement, including the releases provided for therein, based upon the contention or proof that such Settlement Class Member failed to receive adequate or actual notice.

9. Bond Counsel shall cause the Settlement Notice and the Claim Form, substantially in the forms annexed hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively, to be mailed, by first class mail, postage prepaid, on or before fourteen (14) calendar days after this Order is entered, to all Settlement Class Members at the address of each such person, as set forth in the records of Merrill or its transfer agent(s) and in the records of the Underwriter Defendants, or who otherwise may be identified through reasonable effort. Within five (5) calendar days from the

date this Order is entered, Merrill and the Underwriter Defendants shall provide the Claims Administrator with their securities holders lists (consisting of shareholder names and addresses), in electronic form, for providing notice to the Settlement Class. Merrill and the Underwriter Defendants shall bear all costs or expenses associated with providing the Claims Administrator with such records.

10. The Former Underwriter Defendants or their transfer agents holding transfer records for Bond Class Securities are hereby ordered to produce such transfer records in a usable electronic format to the Claims Administrator within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of a copy of this Order.

11. Bond Counsel shall cause the Publication Notice, substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit 3, to be published once each in the national edition of *The Wall Street Journal* and over the *PR Newswire* within ten (10) calendar days of the mailing of the Settlement Notice.

12. Bond Counsel shall, at or before the Settlement Hearing, file with the Court proof of mailing of the Settlement Notice and Claim Form and proof of publication of the Publication Notice.

13. To effectuate the provision of notice provided for in paragraph 7 hereof, Bond Counsel or its agents shall lease and maintain a post office box of adequate size for the return of Claim Forms. The Settlement Notice shall designate said post office box as the return address for the purposes designated in the Settlement Notice. Bond Counsel or its agents shall be responsible for the receipt of all responses from the Settlement Class and, until further order of the Court, shall preserve all entries of appearance, Claim Forms, and all other written

communications from Settlement Class Members, nominees or any other person or entity in response to the Notices.

14. Bond Counsel shall use reasonable efforts to give notice to nominee owners such as brokerage firms and other persons or entities who acquired Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period as record owners but not as beneficial owners. Such nominees who hold or held such Bond Class Securities for beneficial owners who are Settlement Class Members are directed to send a copy of the Settlement Notice and the Claim Form to the beneficial owner of the securities postmarked no more than seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the Settlement Notice, or to provide the names and addresses of such persons no later than seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the Settlement Notice to the Claims Administrator, Analytics Incorporated, at the address specified in the Settlement Notice, who shall promptly send a copy of the Settlement Notice and Claim Form to such beneficial owners. Upon full compliance with this Order, such nominees may seek reimbursement of their reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with this Order by providing the Claims Administrator with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought. Such properly documented expenses incurred by nominees in compliance with the terms of this Order shall be paid from the Settlement Fund.

15. The Court approves the selection of Analytics Incorporated by Bond Counsel as the Claims Administrator. Bond Counsel may pay up to \$ 750,000 from the Settlement Fund, without further approval from Defendants or further order of the Court, for reasonable Notice and Administration Costs actually incurred. Such costs and expenses shall include, without limitation, the actual costs of publication, printing and mailing the Settlement Notice, reimbursements to nominee owners for forwarding the Settlement Notice to their beneficial

owners, the administrative expenses incurred and fees charged by the Claims Administrator in connection with providing Notice and processing the submitted claims, and the fees, if any, of the Escrow Agent. To the extent that Notice and Administration Costs exceed \$750,000, they may be paid only pursuant to further Order of the Court.

16. Bond Counsel or its agents are authorized and directed to prepare any tax returns required to be filed for the Escrow Account and to cause any Taxes or Tax Expenses due and owing to be paid from the Escrow Account without further Order of the Court, and to otherwise perform all obligations with respect to Taxes and any reportings or filings in respect thereof as contemplated by the Settlement Stipulation without further order of the Court.

17. Bond Counsel shall submit its papers in support of final approval of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and the application for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses by no later than thirty (30) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing.

18. Settlement Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Bond Action, whether favorable or unfavorable, unless such persons request exclusion from the Settlement Class in a timely and proper manner, as hereinafter provided. A Settlement Class Member wishing to make such request shall mail the request in written form by first-class mail to the address designated in the Settlement Notice, such that it is received no later than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing. Such request for exclusion shall clearly indicate the name, address and telephone number of the person seeking exclusion, that the sender requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class in the "Merrill Bond Action, Master File No. 07-cv-9633 (JSR)(DFE)" and must be signed by such person. Such persons requesting exclusion are also directed to state: the date(s), price(s), and number(s) of shares or notes for all purchases or other acquisitions and sales of Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period. The

request for exclusion shall not be effective unless it provides the required information and is made within the time stated above, or the exclusion is otherwise accepted by the Court.

19. Any person or entity that requests to be and is excluded from the Settlement Class shall not be entitled to receive any payment out of the Net Settlement Fund as described in the Settlement Stipulation and Settlement Notice.

20. Any member of the Settlement Class who has not requested exclusion from the Settlement Class may appear at the Settlement Hearing to show cause why the proposed Settlement should not be approved as fair, reasonable and adequate; why a judgment should not be entered thereon; why the Plan of Allocation should not be approved as fair and reasonable; or why Bond Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses should not be granted, *provided, however*, that no member of the Settlement Class shall be heard or entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement, the Order and Final Judgment to be entered approving the same, the Plan of Allocation or the attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses requested, unless no later than fifteen (15) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing, such Settlement Class Member has served by hand or by overnight delivery written objections setting forth the basis therefore, and copies of any supporting papers and briefs (which must contain proof of all purchases and other acquisitions of Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period), upon Bond Counsel, Mark Lebovitch, Esq., Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019, and counsel for Merrill and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc, Jay B. Kasner, Esq., Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Four Times Square, New York, New York 10036 ("Merrill Lynch Counsel"), who will then provide copies to counsel for the other Defendants, and has filed said objections, papers and

briefs, showing due proof of service upon Bond Counsel and Merrill Lynch Counsel, with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10007. Persons who intend to object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or to Bond Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, 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. Should any objections be received, reply papers shall be filed no later than seven (7) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing,

21. Any Settlement Class Member who does not object in the manner prescribed above 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 Settlement, the Order and Final Judgment to be entered approving the Settlement, the fairness and reasonableness of the Plan of Allocation, or the attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses requested.

22. In order to be entitled to participate in the Net Settlement Fund, in the event the Settlement is effected in accordance with all of the terms and conditions thereof, each Settlement Class Member shall take the following actions and be subject to the following conditions:

(a) A properly executed Claim Form, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 2, must be submitted to the Claims Administrator, at the Post Office Box indicated in the Settlement Notice, postmarked no later than 120 calendar days from the date set for the mailing of the Settlement Notice. Such deadline may be further extended by Court Order. Each Claim Form shall be deemed to have been submitted when mailed (if properly addressed and mailed by first-class or overnight U.S. Mail, postage prepaid) provided such Claim Form is actually received prior to the filing of a motion for an Order of the Court approving distribution

of the Net Settlement Fund. Any Claim Form submitted in any other manner shall be deemed to have been submitted when it was actually received at the address designated in the Settlement Notice.

(b) The Claim Form submitted by each Settlement Class Member must satisfy the following conditions: (i) it must be properly completed, signed and submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding subparagraph; (ii) it must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation for the transactions reported therein, in the form of broker confirmation slips, broker account statements, an authorized statement from the broker containing the transactional information found in a broker confirmation slip, or such other documentation as is deemed adequate by Bond Counsel or the Claims Administrator; (iii) if the person executing the Claim Form is acting in a representative capacity, a certification of his or her current authority to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Member must be included with the Claim Form; and (iv) the Claim Form must be complete and contain no material deletions or modifications of any of the printed matter contained therein, and must be signed under penalty of perjury.

(c) Once the Claims Administrator has considered a timely submitted Proof of Claim, the Claims Administrator shall determine, based upon the Settlement Class definition and the Plan of Allocation of the Net Settlement Fund, whether such claim is valid, deficient or rejected, subject to the supervision of Bond Counsel and the approval of the Court. For each claim determined to be either deficient or rejected, the Claims Administrator shall send a deficiency or rejection letter as appropriate, describing the basis on which the claim was so determined.

(d) As part of the Claim Form, each Settlement Class Member shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to the Claim submitted.

23. The administration of the proposed Settlement and the determination of all disputed questions of law and fact with respect to the validity of any Claim or right of any person or entity to participate in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund shall be under the authority of this Court.

24. The Court expressly reserves the right to adjourn the Settlement Hearing, or any adjournment thereof, without any further notice to Settlement Class Members other than an announcement at the Settlement Hearing, or any adjournment thereof, and to approve the Settlement Stipulation and/or the Plan of Allocation with modification approved by the parties to the Settlement Stipulation without further notice to Settlement Class Members.

25. None of the Defendants, nor any other Released Party, shall have any responsibility whatsoever for the Plan of Allocation nor for any application for attorneys' fees or reimbursement of Litigation Expenses submitted by Bond Counsel, and such matters will be considered separately from the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the Settlement.

26. In the event the Settlement is not consummated pursuant to its terms, the Settlement Stipulation, except as otherwise provided therein, including any amendment(s) thereto, and this Order shall be null and void, of no further force or effect, and without prejudice to any party, and may not be introduced as evidence or referred to in any action or proceedings by any person or entity, the parties to the Settlement Stipulation shall be restored to their respective positions in the Bond Action immediately before April 27, 2009, and, except as otherwise expressly provided, the parties shall proceed in all respects as if the Settlement Stipulation and any related orders had not been entered, and the balance of the Settlement Fund,

less any Notice and Administration Expenses paid or incurred and less any Taxes and Tax Expenses paid, incurred, or owing, shall be refunded to the Payor Defendant, including interest accrued thereon, within ten (10) business days after written notification of such event is sent by Bond Counsel or Defendants' Counsel.

27. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, Bond Plaintiffs and all Settlement Class Members, and each of them, and anyone who acts or purports to act on their behalf, shall not institute, commence or prosecute any action that asserts any Released Claims against any of the Released Parties.

28. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction over the Bond Action to consider all further matters arising out of or connected with the Settlement.

Dated: New York, New York
_____, 2009

HONORABLE JED S. RAKOFF
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

399829.8

Exhibit A-1

IN RE MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
SECURITIES, DERIVATIVE AND ERISA
LITIGATION

Master File No. 07-cv-9633 (JSR)(DFE)

This Document Relates To:
Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, et al.
v. Conway, et al., 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE)

**NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION AND PROPOSED SETTLEMENT,
SETTLEMENT FAIRNESS HEARING AND MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES
AND REIMBURSEMENT OF LITIGATION EXPENSES**

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

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION: Please be advised that your rights may be affected by the above-captioned class action lawsuit pending in this Court (the "Bond Action") if you purchased or otherwise acquired any of the Bond Class Securities of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("Merrill" or the "Company") listed below from the dates they were first offered to the public for sale through and including January 15, 2009 (the "Class Period").¹

The Bond Class Securities are:

8.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 8 (Cusip: 060505559 formerly known as 59023V373) ("Preferred Stock");
6.11% Subordinated Notes due January 29, 2037 (Cusip: 59022CAJ2) ("6.11% Notes");
5.70% Subordinated Notes due May 2, 2017 (Cusip: 59022CCS0) ("5.70% Notes");
Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip: 59018YE72) ("Medium-Term Notes");
6.05% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip: 59018YJ36) ("6.05% Notes");
6.40% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip: 59018YJ69) ("6.40% Notes");
5.45% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip: 59018YM40) ("5.45% Notes");
6.15% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip: 59018YN56) ("6.15 Notes");
6.875% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip: 59018YN64) ("6.875% Notes"); and
7.75% Subordinated Notes (Cusip: 59023VAA8) ("7.75% Notes").

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT: Please also be advised that Plaintiffs Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (the "Bond Plaintiffs"), on behalf of the Bond Class (as defined in ¶1 below), have reached a proposed settlement of the Bond Action for a total of \$150 million in cash that will resolve all claims in the Bond Action (the "Settlement").

This Notice explains important rights you may have, including your possible receipt of cash from the Settlement. Your legal rights will be affected whether or not you act. Please read this Notice carefully!

1. Description of the Bond Action and the Bond Class: This Notice relates to a proposed Settlement of a class action lawsuit pending against the following defendants: (i) Merrill; (ii) certain of Merrill's former senior officers and directors – E. Stanley O'Neal, John A. Thain, Jeffrey N. Edwards,

¹ All capitalized terms that are not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated as of August 12, 2009.

Laurence A. Tosi, Ahmass L. Fakahany, Gregory J. Fleming, Armando M. Codina, Jill K. Conway, Alberto Criboire, John D. Finnegan, Heinz-Joachim Neubürger, David K. Newbigging, Aulana L. Peters, Joseph W. Prueher, Ann N. Reese, Charles O. Rossotti, Virgis W. Colbert, Judith Mayhew Jonas and Carol T. Christ (the “Individual Defendants”); and (iii) certain investment banks that acted as underwriters for the offerings of the Bond Class Securities, *i.e.*, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., UBS Securities LLC, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC (the “Underwriter Defendants,” and together with Merrill and the Individual Defendants, the “Defendants”). The proposed Settlement, if approved by the Court, will apply to all persons and entities that purchased or otherwise acquired any Bond Class Securities during the Class Period, *i.e.*, from the first date on which the Bond Class Securities were offered for sale to the public through and including January 15, 2009, and were allegedly damaged thereby (the “Bond Class” or “Class”). Members of the Bond Class are referred to herein as “Class Members”.

2. **Statement of Bond Class’s Recovery:** Subject to Court approval, and as described more fully in ¶¶ 30-37 below, Bond Plaintiffs, on behalf of the Bond Class, have agreed to settle all claims based on the purchase or other acquisition of Bond Class Securities during the Class Period that were or could have been asserted against Defendants in the Bond Action in exchange for a settlement payment of \$150,000,000 in cash (the “Settlement Amount”) to be deposited into an interest-bearing escrow account. The Settlement Amount together with interest earned thereon is referred to as the “Settlement Fund”. The Net Settlement Fund (the Settlement Fund less Taxes, Notice and Administration Costs, and attorneys’ fees and litigation expenses awarded to counsel representing Bonds Plaintiffs and the Class) will be distributed in accordance with a plan of allocation (the “Plan of Allocation”) that will be approved by the Court and will determine how the Net Settlement Fund shall be allocated to Class Members. The Plan of Allocation is not intended to be an estimate of the amount that a Class Member might have been able to recover after a trial. It is solely a basis for determining the relative positions of Class Members for purposes of allocating the Net Settlement Fund. The proposed Plan of Allocation, is included in this Notice. Bond Plaintiffs’ damages expert estimates that approximately 204.15 million shares of Preferred Stock, 3.24 million 6.11% Notes, 1.13 million 5.70% Notes, 2.58 million Medium-Term Notes, 3.70 million 6.05% Notes, 3.87 million 6.40% Notes, 3.97 million 5.45% Notes, 2.41 million 6.15% Notes, 7.85 million 6.875% Notes and 2.85 million 7.75% Notes purchased by Class Members could have been affected by the conduct at issue in the Bond Action. If all Class Members elect to participate in the Settlement, the estimated average recovery per-share of Preferred Stock or per Note from the Settlement Fund would be approximately: \$0.17 per affected share of Preferred Stock; \$5.80 per affected 6.11% Note, \$8.05 per affected 5.70% Note, \$3.59 per affected Medium-Term Note, \$2.80 per affected 6.05% Note, \$3.60 per affected 6.40% Note, \$2.32 per affected 5.45% Note, \$3.16 per affected 6.15% Note, \$2.69 per affected 6.875% Note, and \$5.88 per affected 7.75% Note before the deduction of attorneys’ fees and expenses as approved by the Court. Bond Class Members should note, however, that these are only estimates based on the overall number of potentially affected shares and notes in the Bond Class. Some Bond Class Members may recover more or less than these estimated amounts.

3. **Statement of Average Amount of Damages Per Share:** The parties do not agree on the average amount of damages per share that would be recoverable if Bond Plaintiffs were to prevail after trial and any appeals. Defendants deny that any Bond Class Securities were damaged as Bond Plaintiffs have alleged. Defendants deny that the offering materials for the securities contained any materials misrepresentations or omissions and they assert that they were prepared to establish that the prices of the Bond Class Securities declined in value for reasons not related to the disclosure of any allegedly false or misleading statements in the offering materials for the securities. The parties also disagree on the appropriate methodology for determining damages, if liability were established.

4. **Statement of Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses Sought:** Bond Counsel (as defined in ¶5 below) will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys’ fees to Plaintiffs’ Counsel from the Settlement Fund in an amount not to exceed 15% of the Settlement Fund. In addition, Bond Counsel also will apply for the reimbursement of litigation expenses paid or incurred by Plaintiffs’ Counsel in connection with the prosecution and resolution of the Bond Action (which may include the reasonable costs and expenses of

Bond Plaintiffs directly related to their representation of the Bond Class), in an amount not to exceed \$750,000. If the Court approves Bond Counsel’s fee and expense application, the average cost per affected share of Preferred Stock and per affected \$1,000 face amount Note will be approximately \$0.03 per affected share of Preferred Stock; \$0.90 per affected 6.11% Note, \$1.25 per affected 5.70% Note, \$0.56 per affected Medium-Term Note, \$0.43 per affected 6.05% Note, \$0.56 per affected 6.40% Note, \$0.36 per affected 5.45% Note, \$0.49 per affected 6.15% Note, \$0.42 per affected 6.875% Note, and \$0.91 per affected 7.75% Note.

5. **Identification of Attorneys’ Representatives:** Bond Plaintiffs and the Bond Class are being represented Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP (“Bond Counsel”). Any questions regarding the Settlement should be directed to Mark Lebovitch, Esq. at Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019, (800) 380-8496, blbg@blbglaw.com.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THE SETTLEMENT:	
REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE BOND CLASS.	This is the only way to get a payment. If you wish to obtain a payment as a Class Member, you will need to file a Proof of Claim form (which is included with this Notice) postmarked no later than _____, 2009.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE BOND CLASS BY SUBMITTING A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION SO THAT IT IS RECEIVED NO LATER THAN _____, 2009.	Get no payment. This is the only option that allows you to ever be part of any other lawsuit against any of the Defendants or the other Released Parties concerning the claims that were, or could have been, asserted in this case.
OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT BY SUBMITTING WRITTEN OBJECTIONS SO THAT THEY ARE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN _____, 2009.	Write to the Court and explain why you do not like the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, or the request for attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses. You cannot object to the Settlement unless you are a Class Member and do not exclude yourself.
GO TO THE HEARING ON _____, 2009 AT :___.M., AND FILE A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPEAR SO THAT IT IS RECEIVED NO LATER THAN _____, 2009.	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, or the request for attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses.
DO NOTHING.	Get no payment. Remain a Class Member. Give up your rights.

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WHY DID I GET THIS NOTICE?

6. This Notice is being sent to you pursuant to an Order of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”) because you or someone in your family may have purchased or otherwise acquired Bond Class Securities during the Class Period. The Court has directed us to send you this Notice because, as a potential Class Member, you have a right to know about your options before the Court rules on the proposed Settlement of this case. Additionally, you have the right to understand how a class action lawsuit may generally affect your legal rights. If the Court approves the Settlement, a claims administrator selected by Bond Plaintiffs and approved by the Court will make payments pursuant to the Settlement after any objections and appeals are resolved.

7. A class action is a type of lawsuit in which the claims of a number of individuals are resolved together, thus providing the class members with both consistency and efficiency. In a class action lawsuit, the Court selects one or more people, known as class representatives, to sue on behalf of all people with similar claims, commonly known as the class or the class members. Once the class is certified, the Court must resolve all issues on behalf of the class members, except for any persons who choose to exclude themselves from the class. (For more information on excluding yourself from the Class, please read “What If I Do Not Want To Be A Part Of The Settlement? How Do I Exclude Myself?,” located below.) In the Bond Action, the Court has directed that Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel shall have primary responsibility for prosecuting all claims against Defendants on behalf of investors in Bond Class Securities.

8. The Court in charge of this case is the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and the case is known as *Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, et al., v. Conway, et al.*, 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE) (the “Bond Action”) which was coordinated by the Court with the action known as *In re Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Securities, Derivative and ERISA Litigation*, No. 07-cv-9633-JSR-DFE (the “Consolidated Securities Action”).² The Judge presiding over this case is the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff, United States District Judge. The people who are suing are called plaintiffs, and those who are being sued are called defendants. In this case, the plaintiffs are referred to as the Bond Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Bond Class, and Defendants are Merrill, the Individual Defendants, and the Underwriter Defendants.

9. This Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them. The purpose of this Notice is to inform you of this case, that it is a class action, how you might be affected, and how to exclude yourself from the Settlement if you wish to do so. It also is being sent to inform you of the terms of the proposed Settlement, and of a hearing to be held by the Court to consider the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and the application by Bond Counsel for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses (the “Settlement Hearing”).

10. The Settlement Hearing will be held on _____, 2009, at ___:___m., before the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff, at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 14B, New York, New York 10007, to determine:

- (i) whether the Bond Action should be finally certified, for settlement purposes only, as a class action under Rules 23(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

² A settlement of part of the Consolidated Securities Action was previously reached. That settlement is not connected with the proposed Settlement of the Bond Action. Claim forms submitted in connection with the earlier settlement **do not** have any applicability to the proposed Settlement of the Bond Action described herein.

- (ii) whether the proposed Settlement, the terms of which are set forth in a Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated as of August 12, 2009 (the “Stipulation”) is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved by the Court;
- (iii) whether a judgment should be entered, dismissing the Bond Action, on the merits and with prejudice, and the release by the Class of the Released Parties (as defined in paragraph 68 below) should be ordered;
- (iv) whether the proposed Plan of Allocation is fair and reasonable and should be approved by the Court; and
- (v) whether Bond Counsel’s request for an award of attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses should be approved by the Court.

11. This Notice does not express any opinion by the Court concerning the merits of any claim in the Bond Action, and the Court still has to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, payments to Authorized Claimants will be made after any appeals are resolved, and after the completion of all claims processing. Please be patient.

WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT? WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?
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12. Merrill is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive office in New York, New York that provides a broad range of financial services to private clients, small businesses, institutions and corporations. Between October 2006 and May 2008, Merrill sold billions of dollars of debt and preferred securities to the investing public.

13. On October 3, 2008, Bond Plaintiffs commenced an action styled *Louisiana Sheriffs’ Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees’ Retirement System v. Conway et al.*, Index No. 650364/08 in New York State Supreme Court asserting claims for violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”) on behalf of all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired Merrill securities in or traceable to the registered public offerings identified in the complaint filed against Merrill and certain underwriter defendants.

14. On October 16, 2008, Merrill and certain other defendants filed a motion to have the action transferred from the state court to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

15. On October 22, 2008, the action was referred to the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff as a possibly related action to the Consolidated Securities Action, several securities actions pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York which had been consolidated by order dated March 12, 2008.³

16. On December 3, 2008, Judge Rakoff issued an order coordinating the Consolidated Securities Action and the Bond Action for pre-trial purposes and directing that Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel shall have primary responsibility for prosecuting all claims on behalf of investors in Merrill bonds and preferred shares that were identified in the Bond Action but not in the Consolidated Securities Action.

17. From mid to late December 2008, in connection with the negotiations that led to the settlement of the Consolidated Securities Action, the parties engaged in discussions regarding a settlement of the Bond Action but were not able to reach agreement. These discussions were renewed in late February 2009 and continued into March but, again, no agreement was reached.

³ The Consolidated Securities Action alleged claims under the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and was brought on behalf of purchasers of Merrill common stock as well as purchasers in several offerings of Merrill preferred stock. The settlement of that action, which defines a settlement class of purchasers of the relevant securities between October 17, 2006 and December 31, 2008 inclusive, has been approved by the Court. The settlement in the Consolidated Securities Action does not cover the securities covered by the Bond Action.

18. On February 4, 2009, the District Court instructed the parties to brief a motion to dismiss addressed to the original complaint filed in the Bond Action in state court. Accordingly, on February 9, 2009, Defendants filed three separate motions to dismiss the Bond Action complaint. Defendants asserted, among other things, that the complaint was required to and failed to meet the pleading requirements of Rule 9(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and that it failed to allege any untrue statement or actionable omission. On February 13, 2009, Bond Plaintiffs filed their opposition to the motions.

19. On February 17 and 19, 2009, the District Court heard oral argument on Defendants' motions. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Court gave Bond Plaintiffs until March 13, 2009 to file their amended complaint. On February 27, 2009, the Court issued a Memorandum Order stating that the Court had determined that the original complaint was subject to the heightened pleading requirements of Rule 9(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure but that the Court would rule on the motions to dismiss only after an amended complaint was filed and further briefing on the motions was submitted.

20. On March 13, 2009, Bond Plaintiffs filed an Amended Class Action Complaint. A Corrected Amended Class Action Complaint was filed on March 18, 2009 (the "Amended Complaint"). The Amended Complaint asserts claims under Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 against Defendants arising from the offerings of the Bond Class Securities (the "Offerings"), and includes as additional plaintiffs NECA-IBEW Pension Trust Fund Pension Plan, Iron Workers Locals 40, 361, 417 Union Security Funds, Iron Workers Local 580 Joint Funds, City of Pontiac Police and Fire Retirement System and City of Pontiac General Employees Retirement System.

21. The Amended Complaint alleges, among other things, that the offering materials for the Bond Class Securities (the "Offering Materials") failed to accurately disclose the existence and value of tens of billions of dollars of complex derivative securities linked to subprime residential mortgages and Merrill's material dependence on certain financial guarantors to hedge those and other exposures to derivative securities. The Amended Complaint further alleges that the full extent and true nature of Merrill's exposures were not disclosed until January 15 and 16, 2009, following the announcement of a \$138 billion financial bailout by the government to induce Bank of America Corporation ("BAC") to complete its acquisition of Merrill.

22. On March 27, 2009, Defendants moved to dismiss the Amended Complaint with prejudice on the grounds that, among other things (i) Plaintiffs failed to plead any actionable misrepresentations or omissions; and (ii) the Amended Complaint sounded in fraud and failed to meet the pleading requirements of Rule 9(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Defendants have continued to assert that all claims asserted by Bond Plaintiffs on behalf of the Settlement Class are without merit.

23. On April 10, 2009, Plaintiffs filed a consolidated opposition to Defendants' motions to dismiss. Oral argument on the motions was set to take place on April 23, 2009.

24. After Bond Plaintiffs filed the Amended Complaint, settlement discussions were again renewed. These discussions, which continued through the briefing of Defendants' second motion to dismiss, culminated in an agreement in principle to settle the Bond Action which was reached on April 21, 2009.

25. In connection with the prosecution of the Bond Action, Bond Counsel has conducted an extensive factual and legal investigation relating to the claims and the underlying events and transactions alleged in the Amended Complaint, including reviewing and analyzing the Company's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission; reviewing and analyzing available news and research reports issued by securities analysts regarding Merrill and the bond industry, transcripts of Merrill investor conference calls, economic analyses of securities pricing data, and publicly available legal actions involving Merrill; contacting over 150 ex-Merrill employees and interviewing 87 of these potential witnesses; consulting with experts on collateralized debt obligations and related derivative securities, accounting and damages issues; and researching the applicable law with respect to the claims asserted against Defendants and the potential defenses thereto.

26. In addition, the agreement in principle to settle the Bond Action was conditioned on Bond Plaintiffs being satisfied with the results of further due diligence discovery to be completed. In connection

with that due diligence discovery, Merrill and its outside auditor during the Class Period, Deloitte & Touche LLP (“Deloitte”), have collectively produced over thirty million pages of documents relevant to the claims asserted in the Bond Action which have been analyzed, and Bond Counsel has interviewed eight current or former Merrill employees with knowledge of the facts in this case.

27. Based upon their investigation and due diligence discovery, Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel agree that the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interests of the Class.

28. On _____, 2009, the Court preliminarily approved the Settlement, authorized this Notice to be sent to potential Class Members, and scheduled the Settlement Hearing to consider whether to grant final approval to the Settlement.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM AFFECTED BY THE SETTLEMENT?

29. If you are a member of the Class, you are subject to the Settlement unless you timely request to be excluded. The Class consists of all persons and entities that purchased or otherwise acquired Bond Class Securities during the Class Period and were allegedly damaged thereby. Excluded from the Class are Merrill; BAC; the Individual Defendants; members of the immediate families of the Individual Defendants; the Underwriter Defendants; the Former Defendants; any entity in which any Defendant, Former Defendant or BAC has or had a controlling interest; the current and former directors and officers of or partners in: (i) Merrill; (ii) BAC; (iii) any of the Underwriter Defendants; or (iv) any of the Former Defendants, and the legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded person or entity, provided that any Investment Vehicle (as defined in the Stipulation) shall not be deemed an excluded person or entity by definition. The Class also does not include those persons and entities who timely request exclusion from the Class pursuant to this Notice (*see* “What If I Do Not Want To Participate In The Class And The Settlement? How Do I Exclude Myself?” below).

RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER OR THAT YOU ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE PROCEEDS FROM THE SETTLEMENT. IF YOU WISH TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE ENCLOSED CLAIM FORM POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN _____, 2009.

WHAT ARE THE BOND PLAINTIFFS’ REASONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT?

30. Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel believe that the claims asserted against Defendants have merit. Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel recognize, however, the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to pursue their claims against Defendants through trial and appeals, as well as the difficulties in establishing liability for violations of the federal securities laws and in rebutting Defendants’ arguments that the losses suffered were attributable to factors other than the alleged wrongdoing.

31. In agreeing to the terms of the Settlement, Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel took into account the possibility that the claims asserted in the Amended Complaint might have been dismissed in response to Defendants’ motions to dismiss or anticipated motions for summary judgment or rejected by a jury at the trial stage. Bond Plaintiffs’ initial complaint in this action was dismissed by the Court after briefing and a detailed oral argument. The Amended Complaint also faced a variety of legal hurdles. Among other things, there was a significant risk that the Court would apply a heightened pleading standard to Bond Plaintiffs’ allegations that Merrill’s derivative security valuations were false at the time they were made, and determine that the allegations were insufficiently detailed to meet such a standard.

32. Bond Plaintiffs also considered issues that would have been decided by a jury in the event of a trial of the Bond Action, including whether the alleged misrepresentations or omissions in the Offering Materials were material to investors and whether all of Class Members’ losses were caused by the alleged misrepresentations or omissions. The claims asserted relate to collateralized debt obligations and derivative securities, including the use of financial guarantees as hedges for exposure to derivative securities. These

claims raise complex issues of structured finance and would have required expert presentations. A “battle of experts,” in and of itself, poses added significant risks with respect to a jury’s determinations.

33. Furthermore, the amount of damages sustained by the Class, which also would have been the subject of expert testimony, has been, and would continue to be, seriously disputed by Defendants. Even if liability were established, there was a real risk that, after a trial of the action, the Class would have recovered an amount significantly less than the Settlement Amount or nothing at all. First, because of the nature and number of Bond Class Securities, presenting damages to a jury would raise complex issues not present in cases involving a single common stock security. Additionally, Defendants could succeed in severely limiting, or even eliminating recoverable damages, if they could establish that the declines in the value of the Bond Class Securities were attributable to factors other than the alleged wrongdoing. Bond Plaintiffs recognized that Defendants would cite to, among other things, (i) the fact that, at the time the action was initiated, many of the Bond Class Securities had substantially recovered in value since the Bank of America acquisition of Merrill was announced on September 15, 2008, a relevant factor under the controlling statute; and (ii) the extreme economic circumstances facing the economy as a whole, and the financial industry in particular.

34. Finally, Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel have considered the fact that any recovery obtained after a verdict at trial would still be in jeopardy on appeal, and, even if the verdict were ultimately sustained on appeal, it could take years before the case was finally resolved.

35. In light of the amount of the Settlement and the immediacy of recovery to the Class, Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel believe that the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate, and in the best interests of the Class. The Settlement provides a substantial benefit now, namely \$150,000,000 in cash (less the various deductions described in this Notice), as compared to the risk that the claims in the Bond Action would produce a similar, smaller, or no recovery after summary judgment, trial and appeals, possibly years in the future.

36. Defendants have denied the claims asserted against them in the Bond Action and deny having engaged in any wrongdoing or violation of law of any kind whatsoever. Defendants assert that they have agreed to the Settlement solely to eliminate the burden and expense of continued litigation. Accordingly, the Settlement may not be construed as an admission of Defendants’ wrongdoing.

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF THERE WERE NO SETTLEMENT?

37. If there were no Settlement and Bond Plaintiffs failed to establish any essential legal or factual element of their claims, neither Bond Plaintiffs nor the Class would recover anything from Defendants. Also, if Defendants were successful in proving any of their defenses, the Class likely would recover substantially less than the amount provided in the Settlement, or nothing at all.

HOW MUCH WILL MY PAYMENT BE?

THE PROPOSED PLAN OF ALLOCATION: GENERAL PROVISIONS

38. Merrill has agreed to pay One Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars (\$150,000,000) in cash into escrow for the benefit of the Class. At this time, it is not possible to make any determination as to how much individual Class Members may receive from the Settlement.

39. After approval of the Settlement by the Court and upon satisfaction of the other conditions to the Settlement, the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to Authorized Claimants (*i.e.*, persons and entities who are entitled to receive payment out of the Net Settlement Fund) in accordance with the Plan of Allocation. If, after the Claims Administrator has made reasonable and diligent efforts to have Authorized Claimants cash their distribution checks, any funds remain in the Net Settlement Fund because of uncashed distributions or other reasons, then, any balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund as of one (1) year after the initial distribution of such funds shall be redistributed *pro rata* to Authorized Claimants who have cashed their initial distribution and who would receive at least \$20.00 from such redistribution, after

payment of any unpaid costs or fees incurred in administering the Net Settlement Fund for such redistribution. If any funds shall remain in the Net Settlement Fund six (6) months after such redistribution, then such balance shall be contributed to non-sectarian, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations recommended by Bond Counsel and approved by the Court.

40. The Settlement Fund will be distributed as follows:

- (i) to pay all federal, state and local taxes on any income earned by the Settlement Fund and to pay the reasonable costs incurred in connection with determining the amount of, and paying, taxes owed by the Settlement Fund (including reasonable expenses of tax attorneys and accountants);
- (ii) to pay costs and expenses in connection with providing Notice to Class Members and administering the Settlement on behalf of Class Members;
- (iii) to reimburse Plaintiffs' Counsel for the costs and expenses that Plaintiffs' Counsel incurred in commencing and prosecuting the Bond Action, with interest thereon and to reimburse Bond Plaintiffs for their reasonable costs and expenses directly related to their representation of the Class, if and to the extent allowed by the Court;
- (iv) to pay Plaintiffs' Counsel's attorneys' fees, to the extent allowed by the Court; and
- (v) to compensate Authorized Claimants with the balance of the Net Settlement Fund in accordance with the Plan of Allocation, subject to an Order of the Court approving the Settlement and the Plan of Allocation (or such other allocation plan as the Court may approve).

41. The Net Settlement Fund will not be distributed until the Court has approved the Plan of Allocation or an alternative plan of allocation, and the time for any petition for rehearing, appeal or review, whether by certiorari or otherwise, has expired.

42. Neither Defendants nor any other Person who paid any portion of the Settlement Fund on any of their behalves are entitled to get back any portion of the Settlement Fund once the Court's Order approving the Settlement becomes Final. None of the Defendants shall have any liability, obligation or responsibility for the administration of the Settlement or disbursement of the Net Settlement Fund or the Plan of Allocation.

43. Approval of the Settlement is independent from approval of the Plan of Allocation. Any determination with respect to the Plan of Allocation will not affect the Settlement, if approved.

44. Only those Class Members who purchased or otherwise acquired any of the Bond Class Securities listed on page 1 of this Notice during the Class Period ***and have a Recognized Claim under the terms of the Plan of Allocation*** will be eligible to share in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund. Each person wishing to participate in the distribution must timely submit a valid Claim Form establishing membership in the Class, and including all required documentation as set forth in the Claim Form, postmarked no later than _____, 200_ to the address set forth in the Claim Form that accompanies this Notice.

45. Unless the Court otherwise orders, any Class Member who fails to submit a Claim Form postmarked no later than _____, 200_ shall be forever barred from receiving payments pursuant to the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation but will in all other respects remain a Class Member and be subject to the provisions of the Stipulation, including the terms of any judgment entered and releases given. This means that each Class Member releases the Released Claims (as defined in paragraph 67 below) against the Released Parties (as defined in paragraph 68 below) and is enjoined and prohibited from filing, prosecuting, or pursuing any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Parties regardless of whether or not such Class Member submits a Claim Form.

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

47. The Court has also reserved the right to modify the Plan of Allocation without further notice to Class Members. All Orders regarding a modification of the Plan of Allocation will be posted on the settlement website, www._____.com.

48. The objective of the Plan of Allocation is to equitably distribute the settlement proceeds to those Class Members who suffered economic losses as a result of the alleged wrongdoing. The Plan of Allocation, developed by Bond Plaintiffs' damages expert, is generally based upon the statutory measure of damages for claims based on material misrepresentations in registration statements.

49. The calculation of a Recognized Claim pursuant to the Plan of Allocation is not intended to be an estimate of, nor indicative of, the amount that a Class Member might have been able to recover after a trial. The Plan of Allocation does not take into account various defenses and limitations on damages that a jury could have accepted, which would diminish the amount of any eventual recovery. Nor is the calculation of a Recognized Claim pursuant to the Plan of Allocation an estimate of the amount that will be paid to Authorized Claimants pursuant to the Settlement. That amount will depend upon the total amount of all Recognized Claims. The Recognized Claim formula is the basis upon which the Net Settlement Fund will be proportionately allocated to the Authorized Claimants. This computation is only a method to weigh Class Members' claims against one another. Each Authorized Claimant will receive a *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund based on his, her or its Recognized Claim. The proposed Plan of Allocation generally measures the amount of loss that a Class Member may claim under the Settlement for the purpose of making *pro-rata* allocations of the Net Settlement Fund to Class Members who submit acceptable Proofs of Claim.

CALCULATION OF RECOGNIZED LOSS OR GAIN AMOUNTS

50. A "Recognized Loss or Gain Amount" will be calculated for each share of Preferred Stock or Note purchased or acquired during the Class Period (*i.e.*, from the first day on which the security was offered for sale to the public through and including January 15, 2009) *and* which, if offered for sale prior to October 24, 2007, was still owned as of the close of trading on October 24, 2007 (the first day that any of the allegedly wrongfully withheld or misrepresented information began to enter the market), and for which adequate documentation is provided ("Eligible Preferred Stock" and "Eligible Notes").⁴ The calculation of the Recognized Loss or Gain Amount will depend upon several factors, including (i) when the Bond Class Securities were purchased or acquired; and (ii) whether they were sold, and if so, when they were sold.

1. For each share of Eligible Preferred Stock and each Eligible Note that was sold prior to March 13, 2009, the Recognized Loss Amount per share or note shall be the difference between the amount paid for the share or note (not exceeding the price at which the share or note was offered to the public) and the price at which the share or note was sold before March 13, 2009. The Recognized Loss Amount cannot be less than zero. If the price at which the share or note was sold exceeds the amount paid, then the difference between the price at which the share or note was sold and the amount paid shall be the Recognized Gain Amount.
2. For each share of Eligible Preferred Stock and each Eligible Note that was sold between March 13, 2009 and April 27, 2009, the Recognized Loss Amount per share or note shall be the difference between the amount paid for the share or note (not exceeding the price at which the share or note was offered to the public) and *the higher of* (i) the price at which the share or note was sold between March 13, 2009 and April 27, 2009; and (ii) the value of the share or note as of March 13, 2009.⁵ The Recognized Loss Amount cannot be less than zero. If the price at which the share or note was sold exceeds the amount paid, then the difference between the price at which the share or note was sold and the amount paid shall be the Recognized Gain Amount.

⁴ Any Bond Class Security sold before October 24, 2007 shall have a Recognized Loss/Gain Amount of "0".

⁵ The value of each security as of March 13, 2009 is based on the most recent closing price available and is as follows for each security: (i) \$9.11 per share for each share of Preferred Stock; (ii) \$480.00 per 6.11% Note; (iii) \$526.25 per 5.70% Note; (iv) \$760.00 per Medium-Term Note; (v) \$785.00 per 6.05% Note; (vi) \$734.60 per 6.40% Note; (vii) \$779.11 per 5.45% Note; (viii) \$712.35 per 6.15% Note; (ix) \$796.31 per 6.875% Note; and (x) \$500.00 per 7.75% Note.

3. For each share of Eligible Preferred Stock and Each Eligible Note that was still owned as of the close of trading on April 27, 2009, the Recognized Loss Amount per share or note shall be the difference between the amount paid for the share or note (not exceeding the price at which the share or note was offered to the public) and the value thereof on March 13, 2009. The Recognized Loss Amount cannot be less than zero. If the value of the share or note as of March 13, 2009 exceeds the amount paid, then the difference between the value as of March 13, 2009 and the amount paid shall be the Recognized Gain Amount.

51. Establishing a claim for damages for purchases of the securities after the issuer has made generally available an earnings statement covering a period of at least twelve months beginning after the effective date of the registration statement imposes an additional burden on plaintiffs not present with respect to earlier purchases of those securities. Because this claim is more difficult to establish, the Recognized Loss Amount for affected purchases or acquisitions will be reduced by 20%. The affected transactions are: (i) purchases or acquisitions of 6.11% Notes after May 5, 2008; (ii) purchases or acquisitions of 5.70% Notes after August 5, 2008; (iii) purchases or acquisitions of Medium Term Notes after August 5, 2008; (iv) purchases or acquisitions of 6.05% Notes after November 4, 2008; and (v) purchases or acquisitions of 6.40% Notes purchased after November 4, 2008.

52. Each Authorized Claimant's "Recognized Claim" shall be calculated by (1) totaling all Recognized Loss Amounts, and (2) subtracting from that amount the total of all Recognized Gain Amounts.

UNLESS A CLASS MEMBER HAD A NET RECOGNIZED LOSS ON HIS, HER OR ITS PURCHASES OR OTHER ACQUISITIONS MADE DURING THE CLASS PERIOD IN BOND CLASS SECURITIES, THE AMOUNT OF THE CLASS MEMBER'S RECOGNIZED CLAIM SHALL BE ZERO.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

53. If the sum total of Recognized Claims of all Authorized Claimants is greater than the Net Settlement Fund, each such 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 Claim divided by the total of all Recognized Claims to be paid from the Net Settlement Fund, multiplied by the total amount in the Net Settlement Fund. If the prorated payment calculates to less than \$20.00, it will not be included in the calculation and it will not be distributed.

54. If the Net Settlement Fund exceeds the sum total amount of the Recognized Claims of all Authorized Claimants, the excess amount in the Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed *pro rata* to all Authorized Claimants.

55. If a Class Member has more than one purchase/acquisition or sale of Bond Class Securities through April 27, 2009, the Recognized Loss or Gain Amount for each such security shall be determined on a First In, First Out ("FIFO") method, such that all such sales will be matched against any purchases/acquisitions of the like Bond Class Security in chronological order, beginning with the earliest purchase/acquisition.

56. Purchases or other acquisitions and sales of Bond Class Securities shall be deemed to have occurred on the "contract" or "trade" date as opposed to the "settlement" or "payment" date.

57. The receipt or grant by gift, inheritance or operation of law of Bond Class Securities during the Class Period shall not be deemed a purchase or acquisition of such security for the calculation of a Claimant's Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts nor shall the receipt or grant be deemed an assignment of any claim relating to the purchase/acquisition of such Bond Class Securities unless (i) the donor or decedent purchased or otherwise acquired such Bond Class Securities during the Class Period; (ii) no Claim Form was submitted by or on behalf of the donor, on behalf of the decedent, or by anyone else with respect to such Bond Class Securities; and (iii) it is specifically so provided in the instrument of gift or assignment. If the requirements of the preceding sentence are satisfied such Bond Class Securities shall be deemed purchased by the Claimant on the original date of purchase by the donor, decedent or transferor and not the date of transfer. Accordingly, if the donor, decedent or transferor did not purchase the subject Bond Class

Securities during the Class Period, those Bond Class Securities shall be excluded from the computation of the Claimant's Recognized Claim.

58. All transaction amounts for purchases and sales of Bond Class Securities should be net of commissions, taxes, and fees. All transaction amounts for purchases and sales of notes should exclude the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid or received.

59. The date of covering a "short sale" is deemed to be the date of purchase or other acquisition of Bond Class Securities. The date of a "short sale" is deemed to be the date of sale of Bond Class Securities. In accordance with the Plan of Allocation, however, the Recognized Loss Amount on "short sales" is zero.

60. To the extent a Claimant had an overall market gain with respect to his, her, or its Class Period purchases or acquisitions of Bond Class Securities, the value of the Recognized Claim will be zero. Such Claimants will in any event be bound by the Settlement. To the extent that a Claimant suffered an overall market loss with respect to his, her, or its purchases or acquisitions of Bond Class Securities during the Class Period, but that loss was less than the total Recognized Claim calculated above, then the Claimant's Recognized Claim shall be limited to the amount of the actual market loss.

61. For purposes of determining whether a Claimant had an overall market gain with respect to his, her, or its Class Period purchases of Bond Class Securities during the Class Period or suffered an overall market loss, the Claims Administrator shall determine the difference between (i) the Total Purchase Amount⁶ and (ii) the sum of the Sales Proceeds⁷ and the Holding Value.⁸ This difference will be deemed a Claimant's market gain or loss on his, her, or its overall transactions in Bond Class Securities during the Class Period.

62. Payment pursuant to the Plan of Allocation approved by the Court shall be conclusive against all Authorized Claimants. No person shall have any claim against Bond Plaintiffs, Bond Counsel, any other Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel in the Bond Action, Lead Plaintiff in the Consolidated Securities Action or its counsel, Defendants, Defendants' Counsel, the other Released Parties or their counsel, or the Claims Administrator or other agent designated by Bond Counsel arising from distributions made substantially in accordance with the Stipulation, the Plan of Allocation, or further orders of the Court. Bond Plaintiffs, Bond Counsel, Defendants, Defendants' Counsel, the other Released Parties and their counsel shall have no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the investment or distribution of the Settlement Fund, the Net Settlement Fund, the Plan of Allocation, or the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any Claim Form or nonperformance of the Claims Administrator, the payment or withholding of taxes owed by the Settlement Fund, or any losses incurred in connection therewith.

63. Each Claimant shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York with respect to his, her or its Proof of Claim.

64. Persons and entities that exclude themselves from the Bond Class will not be eligible to receive a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund and should not submit Proof of Claim forms.

65. The Plan of Allocation set forth herein is the plan that is being proposed by Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel to the Court for approval. The Court may approve this plan as proposed or it may modify the Plan of Allocation without further notice to the Class.

⁶ The "Total Purchase Amount" is the total amount the Claimant paid for all of the Bond Class Securities purchased or acquired during the Class Period.

⁷ The "Sales Proceeds" is the total amount the Claimant received for all of the Bond Class Securities purchased during the Class Period that were sold through April 27, 2009.

⁸ The Claims Administrator shall ascribe a value to each Bond Class Security still held as of the close of trading on April 27, 2009 ("Holding Value") which shall be equal to the values set forth in footnote 5 above.

WHAT RIGHTS AM I GIVING UP BY AGREEING TO THE SETTLEMENT?

66. If the Settlement is approved, the Court will enter a judgment (the “Judgment”). The Judgment will dismiss with prejudice the claims against Defendants and will provide that Bond Plaintiffs and all other Class Members shall be deemed to have -- and by operation of the Judgment shall have -- released, dismissed and forever discharged the Released Claims (as defined in paragraph 67 below), including Unknown Claims (as defined in paragraph 69 below) against each and all of the Released Parties (as defined in paragraph 68 below).

67. “Released Claims” means any and all claims, actions, debts, demands, set-offs (both legal and equitable), causes of action, rights or liabilities whatsoever (including, but not limited to, any claims for damages, equitable relief, interest, attorneys’ fees, expert or consulting fees, and any other costs, expenses or liability whatsoever), whether based on federal, state, foreign, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, local, statutory or common law or any other law, rule or regulation, whether fixed or contingent, accrued or unaccrued, liquidated or un-liquidated, at law or in equity, matured or un-matured, whether direct, representative, class, individual or in any other form, including both known claims and Unknown Claims (as defined in paragraph 69 below), that have been or could have been asserted in any forum by the Settlement Class Members against any of the Released Parties, which arise out of or relate to or are based in whole or in part upon any of the allegations, transactions, facts, matters or occurrences, representations, disclosures, statements or omissions alleged, involved, set forth, or referred to in the Amended Complaint, in connection with such Settlement Class Members’ purchase or acquisition of Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period. Released Claims includes only the claims that were or could have been asserted on behalf of purchasers or acquirers of the Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period. Released Claims specifically excludes the claims asserted in (1) all securities class actions consolidated into docket number 07cv9633 by order dated March 12, 2008; (2) all derivative actions consolidated into docket number 07cv9696 by order dated March 12, 2008, the derivative action captioned *Lambrecht v. O’Neal*, 08cv6582, and all derivative actions involving substantially similar facts; (3) the ERISA actions consolidated into docket number 07cv10268 by order dated March 12, 2008 and (4) all actions consolidated into docket number 08cv10841(JSR) by orders entered April 2, 2009, May 19, 2009 and May 21, 2009. It is also expressly understood that no release is given to any Released Party in connection with any purchase, acquisition, or retention of BAC securities by any purchaser, acquirer, or holder of BAC securities other than with respect to 8.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 8 (060505559 formerly known as 59023V373) through and including January 15, 2009.

68. “Released Parties” means Defendants, the Former Underwriter Defendants,⁹ Deloitte, and their respective heirs, executors, personal representatives, estates and administrators; their respective past, present and future parent entities, affiliates, related parties, subsidiaries, predecessors and successors; and each of

⁹ The Former Underwriter Defendants are ANZ Securities, Inc.; Banc of America Securities, LLC; Barclays Capital Inc.; BB&T Capital Markets, a division of Scott & Stringfellow, Inc.; BBVA Securities, Inc.; Blaylock Robert Van, LLC; BMO Capital Markets Corp.; BNY Mellon Financial Markets LLC, independently and as successor to BNY Capital Markets, Inc. and Mellon Financial Markets, LLC.; Cabrera Capital Markets, LLC; CastleOak Securities L.P.; Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.; CIBC World Markets Corp.; Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC; D.A. Davidson & Co.; Davenport & Company LLC; Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.; Ferris, Baker Watts, Incorporated; Fidelity Capital Markets, a division of National Financial Services LLC; Fifth Third Securities, Inc.; Fixed Income Securities, Inc.; Fortis Securities LLC; FTN Financial Securities Corp.; Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc.; H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc.; HSBC Securities (USA); HVB Capital Markets, Inc.; J.B. Hanauer & Co.; J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc.; Jackson Securities LLC; Janney Montgomery Scott LLC; Jefferies & Company, Inc.; KBC Financial Products USA, Inc.; Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.; KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc.; Loop Capital Markets; Mesirrow Financial, Inc.; Mizuho Securities USA Inc.; Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.; Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc.; nabCapital Securities, LLC; NatCity Investments, Inc.; Natixis Bleichroeder Inc.; Oppenheimer & Co., Inc.; Pershing LLC; PNC Capital Markets LLC; Raymond James & Associates, Inc.; RBC Capital Markets Corporation, independently and as successor to RBC Dain Rauscher Inc.; Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated; Samuel A. Ramirez & Co., Inc.; Santander Investment Securities Inc.; Sterne Agee Capital Markets, Inc.; Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated; Stone & Youngberg LLC; TD Ameritrade, Inc.; The Williams Capital Group, L.P.; Toussaint Capital Partners, LLC; UniCredit Capital Markets, Inc.; Utendahl Capital Partners, L.P.; Vining-Sparks IBG, Limited Partnership; Wachovia Securities, Inc.; Wedbush Morgan Securities Inc.; William Blair & Company, L.L.C.; and Zions Direct, Inc.

their respective past, present and future assigns, insurers, partners, officers, directors, controlling persons, representatives, employees, agents, attorneys, counsel, underwriters, and financial or investment advisors.

69. "Unknown Claims" means any and all Released Claims that Plaintiffs and any other Settlement Class Member do not know or suspect to exist in his, her or its favor at the time of the release of the Released Parties and any and all Released Parties' Claims that any Defendant or other Released Party does not know or suspect to exist in his, her or its favor, which if known by him, her or it might have affected his, her or its decision(s) with respect to the Settlement. With respect to any and all Released Claims and Released Parties' Claims (as defined in paragraph 70 below), the parties stipulate and agree that upon the Effective Date, Bond Plaintiffs and Defendants shall expressly, and each of the other Settlement Class Members and each of the other Released Parties shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Order and Final 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 Cal. Civ. Code § 1542, which provides:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor.

Bond Plaintiffs and Defendants acknowledge, and the other Settlement Class Members and the other Released Parties by operation of law shall be deemed to have acknowledged, that the inclusion of "Unknown Claims" in the definition of Released Claims and Released Parties' Claims was separately bargained for and was a key element of the Settlement.

70. The Judgment also will provide that Defendants and each of the Other Released Parties shall be deemed to have – and by operation of the Judgment shall have – fully, finally, and forever released, waived, discharged and dismissed any and all claims, rights or causes of action or liabilities whatsoever, whether based on federal, state, foreign, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, local, statutory or common law or any other law, rule or regulation, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, that have been or could have been asserted in the Bond Action or any forum by the Released Parties or any of them or the successors and assigns of any of them against any of the Plaintiffs, Lead Plaintiff in the Consolidated Securities Action, other Settlement Class Members or their attorneys, which arise out of or relate in any way to the institution, prosecution, or settlement of the Bond Action (except for claims to enforce the Settlement), *i.e.*, the Released Parties' Claims.

WHAT PAYMENT ARE THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE CLASS SEEKING?
HOW WILL THE LAWYERS BE PAID?

71. Plaintiffs' Counsel have not received any payment for their services in pursuing claims against Defendants on behalf of the Class, nor have Plaintiffs' Counsel been reimbursed for their out-of-pocket expenses. Before final approval of the Settlement, Bond Counsel intends to apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees to Plaintiffs' Counsel from the Settlement Fund in an amount not to exceed 15% of the Settlement Fund. At the same time, Bond Counsel also intends to apply for the reimbursement of litigation expenses to Plaintiffs' Counsel (which may include the reasonable costs and expenses of Bond Plaintiffs directly related to their representation of the Bond Class) not to exceed \$750,000. The Court will determine the amount of the award.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT? WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

72. If you purchased or otherwise acquired Bond Class Securities during the Class Period, and you are not excluded by the definition of the Class and you do not elect to exclude yourself from the Class, then you are a Class Member, and you will be bound by the proposed Settlement if the Court approves it, and by any judgment or determination of the Court affecting the Class. If you are a Class Member, you must submit a Claim Form and supporting documentation to establish your entitlement to share in the Settlement. A Claim Form is included with this Notice, or you may go to the website maintained by the Claims

Administrator for the Settlement to request that a Claim Form be mailed to you. The website is www._____.com. You may also request a Claim Form by calling toll-free 1-____-____-____. Copies of the Claim Form can also be downloaded from Bond Counsel's website at www.blbglaw.com/cases/. Those who exclude themselves from the Class, and those who do not submit timely and valid Claim Forms with adequate supporting documentation will not be entitled to share in the Settlement. Please retain all records of your ownership of, or transactions in Bond Class Securities, as they may be needed to document your Claim.

73. As a Class Member, you are represented by Bond Plaintiffs and Bond Counsel, unless you enter an appearance through counsel of your own choice at your own expense. You are not required to retain your own counsel, but if you choose to do so, such counsel must file a notice of appearance on your behalf and must serve copies of his or her notice of appearance on the attorneys listed in the section entitled, "When and Where Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?," below.

74. If you do not wish to remain a Class Member, you may exclude yourself from the Class by following the instructions in the section entitled, "What If I Do Not Want To Be A Part Of The Class And The Settlement? How Do I Exclude Myself?," below. If you exclude yourself from the Class, you will not be eligible to receive any benefit from the Settlement and you should not submit a Claim Form but you will retain the right to be a part of any other lawsuit against any of the Released Parties (as defined in paragraph 68 above) with respect to any of the Released Claims (as defined in paragraph 67 above).

75. If you wish to object to the Settlement or any of its terms, the proposed Plan of Allocation, or Bond Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and if you do not exclude yourself from the Class, you may present your objections by following the instructions in the section entitled, "When and Where Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?," below. If you exclude yourself from the Class, you are not entitled to submit an objection.

<p>WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO BE A PART OF THE SETTLEMENT? HOW DO I EXCLUDE MYSELF?</p>

76. Each Class Member will be bound by all determinations and judgments in this lawsuit, including those concerning the Settlement, whether favorable or unfavorable, unless such person or entity mails, by first-class mail (or its equivalent outside the U.S.), or otherwise delivers a written Request for Exclusion from the Class, addressed to "Merrill Bond Action - EXCLUSIONS, - c/o _____, P.O. Box _____, _____, _____ - _____." The exclusion request must be *received* no later than _____, 2009. You will not be able to exclude yourself from the Class after that date. Each Request for Exclusion must (i) state the name and address of the person or entity requesting exclusion; (ii) state that such person or entity "requests exclusion from the Class in the Merrill Bond Action, 08-cv-9063 (JSR)(DFE)"; (iii) be signed by the person or entity requesting exclusion; (iv) provide a telephone number for that person or entity; and (v) provide the date(s), price(s), and number(s) of shares or notes for all purchases and other acquisitions and sales of Bond Class Securities during the Class Period. Requests for exclusion will not be valid if they do not include the information set forth above and they are not received within the time stated above, unless the Court otherwise determines.

77. If you do not want to be part of the Class, you must follow these instructions for exclusion even if you have pending, or later file, another lawsuit, arbitration, or other proceeding relating to any Released Claims.

78. If a person or entity requests to be excluded from the Class, that person or entity will not receive any benefit provided for in the Stipulation.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE COURT DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROVE THE
SETTLEMENT?
DO I HAVE TO COME TO THE HEARING?
MAY I SPEAK AT THE HEARING IF I DON'T LIKE THE SETTLEMENT?

79. **If you do not wish to object in person to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or the application for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses, you do not need to attend the Settlement Hearing. You can object to or participate in the Settlement without attending the Settlement Hearing.**

80. The Settlement Hearing will be held on _____, 2009, at ____:____m., before the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff, at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 14B, New York, New York 10007. The Court reserves the right to approve the Settlement or the Plan of Allocation at or after the Settlement Hearing without further notice to the members of the Class.

81. Any Class Member who does not request exclusion *received* no later than _____, 2009 may object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or Bond Counsel's request for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses. Objections or oppositions must be in writing. You must file any written objection or opposition, together with copies of all other papers (including proof of all purchases or acquisitions of Bond Class Securities during the Class Period) and briefs, with the Clerk's Office at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York at the address set forth below on or before _____, 2009. You must also serve the papers on Bond Counsel for the Class and representative counsel for the Defendants at the addresses set forth below so that the papers are *received* on or before _____, 2009.

Clerk's Office

Bond Counsel for the Class

**Representative Counsel
For Defendants**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN
DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
500 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10007

BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER
& GROSSMANN LLP
Mark Lebovitch, Esq.
1285 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE,
MEAGHER & FLOM LLP
Jay B. Kasner, Esq.
Four Times Square
New York, New York 10036

82. The filing must demonstrate your membership in the Class, including the number of Bond Class Securities purchased or otherwise acquired or sold during the Class Period and the price(s) paid and received. You may not object to the Settlement or any aspect of it, if you excluded yourself from the Class.

83. You may file a written objection without having to appear at the Settlement Hearing. You may not appear at the Settlement Hearing to present your objection, however, unless you first filed and served a written objection in accordance with the procedures described above, unless the Court orders otherwise.

84. If you wish to be heard orally at the hearing in opposition to the approval of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or Bond Counsel's request for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses, and if you have filed and served a timely written objection as described above, you also must notify the above counsel on or before _____, 2009 concerning your intention to appear. Persons who intend to object 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 hearing.

85. You are not required to hire an attorney to represent you in making written objections or in appearing at the Settlement Hearing. If you decide to hire an attorney, which will be at your own expense, however, he or she must file a notice of appearance with the Court and serve it on Bond Counsel so that the notice is received on or before _____, 2009.

86. The Settlement Hearing may be adjourned by the Court without further written notice to the Class. If you intend to attend the Settlement Hearing, you should confirm the date and time with Bond Counsel.

Unless the Court orders otherwise, any Class Member who does not object in the manner described above will be deemed to have waived any objection and shall be forever foreclosed from making any objection to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, or Bond Counsel's request for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses. Class Members do not need to appear at the hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval.

WHAT IF I BOUGHT SHARES ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHALF?

87. If you purchased or otherwise acquired Bond Class Securities during the Class Period for the beneficial interest of a person or organization other than yourself, you must either (i) send a copy of this Notice to the beneficial owner of such Bond Class Securities, postmarked no later than seven (7) days after you receive this Notice, or (ii) provide the names and addresses of such persons no later than seven (7) days after you receive this Notice to Merrill Bond Action, c/o _____, P.O. Box _____, _____ - _____. If you choose the second option, the Claims Administrator will send a copy of the Notice to the beneficial owner. Upon full compliance with these directions, such nominees may seek reimbursement of their reasonable expenses actually incurred, by providing the Claims Administrator with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought. Copies of this Notice and the Proof of Claim form can be obtained from the website maintained by the Claims Administrator, www._____.com, or by calling toll-free 1-____-_____, or from Bond Counsel's website, www.blbglaw.com.

CAN I SEE THE COURT FILE? WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

88. This Notice contains only a summary of the terms of the proposed Settlement. More detailed information about the matters involved in the Bond Action is available at www._____.com, including, among other documents, copies of the Stipulation, Proof of Claim form, the Amended Complaint and the Court's Order on the Defendants' motions to dismiss the Bond Action. All inquiries concerning this Notice or the Claim Form should be directed to:

Merrill Bond Action
% _____
P.O. Box _____
_____, _____ - _____
____ - _____

OR

Mark Lebovitch, Esq.
BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER & GROSSMANN LLP
1285 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019
(800) 380-8496
blbg@blbglaw.com

Bond Counsel

**DO NOT CALL OR WRITE THE COURT OR THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
REGARDING THIS NOTICE.**

Dated: _____, 2009

By Order of the Clerk of Court
United States District Court
for the Southern District of New York

#399830.10

Exhibit A-2

IN RE MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
SECURITIES, DERIVATIVE AND ERISA
LITIGATION

Master File No. 07-cv-9633 (JSR)(DFE)

This Document Relates To:
Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, et al.
v. Conway, et al., 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE)

PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION _____.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. It is important that you completely read and understand the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement, Settlement Fairness Hearing and Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses (the "Notice") that accompanies this Proof of Claim and Release ("Proof of Claim"), and the Plan of Allocation included in the Notice. The Notice and the Plan of Allocation describe the proposed Settlement that will resolve the above-captioned class action lawsuit (the "Merrill Bond Action"), how the Class Members are affected by the Settlement, and the manner in which the Settlement Fund will be distributed, if the Court approves the Settlement and the Plan of Allocation. The Notice also contains the definitions of many of the defined terms (which are indicated by initial capital letters) used in this Proof of Claim. By signing and submitting the Proof of Claim, you will be certifying that you have read and that you understand the Notice.

2. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT, YOU MUST MAIL YOUR COMPLETED AND SIGNED PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE, BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE PREPAID, POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE _____, ADDRESSED TO:

Merrill Bond Action
% _____
P.O. Box _____
_____, _____
_____-_____-_____

3. This Proof of Claim is directed to all persons and entities that purchased or otherwise acquired any of the Bond Class Securities listed on the first page of the accompanying Notice from the first date on which they were offered for sale to the public through and including January 15, 2009 (the "Class Period"), and were allegedly damaged thereby (the "Bond Class" or "Class"). Excluded from the Bond Class are Merrill; BAC; the Individual Defendants; members of the immediate families of the Individual Defendants; the Underwriter Defendants; the Former Defendants; any entity in which any Defendant, Former Defendant or BAC has or had a controlling interest; the current and former directors

and officers of or partners in: (i) Merrill; (ii) BAC; (iii) any of the Underwriter Defendants; or (iv) any of the Former Defendants, and the legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded person or entity, provided that any Investment Vehicle (as defined in the Stipulation) shall not be deemed an excluded person or entity by definition. Also excluded from the Bond Class are any persons who exclude themselves by filing a request for exclusion in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Notice.

4. "Class Members" means Persons who are members of the Bond Class who do not timely and properly exclude themselves therefrom.

5. "Authorized Claimant" means a Class Member who submits a timely and valid Proof of Claim Form to the Claims Administrator, in accordance with the requirements established by the District Court, that is approved for payment from the Net Settlement Fund.

6. IF YOU ARE NOT A CLASS MEMBER, OR IF YOU, OR SOMEONE ACTING ON YOUR BEHALF, FILED A REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE BOND CLASS, DO NOT SUBMIT A PROOF OF CLAIM. YOU MAY NOT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT IF YOU ARE NOT A CLASS MEMBER. THUS, IF YOU FILE A VALID REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION, ANY PROOF OF CLAIM THAT YOU SUBMIT, OR THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED ON YOUR BEHALF, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

7. To be eligible to recover as a Class Member, you must complete and sign this Proof of Claim and mail it to the Claims Administrator postmarked on or before _____. If you fail to file a timely, properly addressed, and completed Proof of Claim, your claim may be rejected, and you may be precluded from receiving any distribution from the Net Settlement Fund.

8. Submission of this Proof of Claim does not ensure that you will share in the Net Settlement Fund. Distributions from the Net Settlement Fund are governed by the Plan of Allocation approved by the Court. The proposed Plan of Allocation, which is subject to the Court's approval, is included in the Notice.

9. If you have questions concerning the Proof of Claim, or need additional copies of the Proof of Claim or the Notice, you may contact the Claims Administrator, _____, at the above address or by toll-free phone at (800) ___-____, or you may download the documents from Bond Counsel's website, www.blbglaw.com/cases/index or the website maintained by the Claims Administrator for this Settlement, www._____.

10. If you are a Class Member and you do not, or someone acting on your behalf does not, submit a timely request for exclusion from the Bond Class, and if the Court approves the Settlement, you will be bound by the terms of any orders and judgments that the Court enters. You will be bound by such orders and judgments whether or not you submit a Proof of Claim and Release. The judgment enjoins the filing or continued prosecution of Released Claims, and also releases the Released Claims against the Released Parties, including those that are subject to pending lawsuits or arbitrations.

11. You are required to submit genuine and sufficient documentation demonstrating: (i) the Claimant's purchases/acquisitions and sales of Bond Class Securities during Class Period, *i.e.*, the time period beginning with the date that the Bond Class Securities were first offered to the public for sale through and including January 15, 2009; (ii) the Claimant's sales of Bond Class Securities during the time period from June 16, 2009 through and including April 27, 2009, the date that the parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to their agreement in principle to settle the Bond Action; (iii) the Claimant's positions in Bond Class Securities as of the close of trading on April 27,

2009. Documentation may be photocopies of stockbrokers' confirmation slips or stockbrokers' monthly statements reflecting your opening and closing balances for the months specified on the actual claim form, and in which transactions during the Class Period occurred. IF SUCH DOCUMENTS ARE NOT IN YOUR POSSESSION, PLEASE OBTAIN COPIES OR EQUIVALENT CONTEMPORANEOUS DOCUMENTS FROM YOUR BROKER. FAILURE TO SUPPLY THIS DOCUMENTATION MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR CLAIM. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL STOCK CERTIFICATES OR NOTES. For purposes of the overall evaluation of the Claim, you are also required to state the total number of Bond Class Securities purchased/acquired during the time period from January 16, 2009 through and including April 27, 2009.

12. All joint purchasers must each sign this Proof of Claim

13. Agents, executors, administrators, guardians, and trustees must complete and sign the Proof of Claim and Release on behalf of persons represented by them and they must:

(a) expressly state the capacity in which they are acting;

(b) identify the name, account number, Social Security Number (or taxpayer identification number), address and telephone number of the beneficial owner of (or other person or entity on whose behalf they are acting with respect to) the Bond Class Securities; and

(c) furnish herewith evidence of their authority to bind to the Proof of Claim and Release the person or entity on whose behalf they are acting. (Authority to complete and sign a Proof of Claim and Release cannot be established by stockbrokers only demonstrating that they have discretionary authority to trade stock in another's accounts.)

14. By submitting a signed Proof of Claim, you will be swearing that you:

(a) own(ed) the Bond Class Securities you have listed in the Proof of Claim and Release; or

(b) are expressly authorized to act on behalf of the beneficial owner(s) thereof.

15. By submitting a signed Proof of Claim and Release, you will be swearing to the truth of the statements contained therein and the genuineness of the documents attached thereto, subject to penalties of perjury under the laws of the United States of America. The making of false statements, or the submission of forged or fraudulent documentation, will result in the rejection of your claim and may subject you to civil liability or criminal prosecution.

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 Claimants MUST submit a manually signed paper Proof of Claim form listing all their transactions, whether or not they also submit electronic copies. If you wish to file your claim electronically, you must contact the Claims Administrator at - ___ - ___ - ___, or visit its website www._____.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.

Merrill Bond Action

CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION

Beneficial Owner's Name (First, Middle, Last) / Joint Owner's Name

Street Address

City State Zip Code

Area Code Telephone Number (Daytime)

Area Code Telephone Number (Evening)

Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number

Record Owner's Name (if different from beneficial owner listed above)

Check appropriate box (check only one box):

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Sole Proprietor | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Owners | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Trust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IRA | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe: _____) | |

NOTE: Separate Proofs of Claim should be submitted for each separate legal entity (*e.g.*, a claim from Joint Owners should not include separate transactions of just one of the Joint Owners; an Individual should not combine his or her IRA transactions with transactions made solely in the Individual's name). Conversely, a single Proof of Claim submitted on behalf of one legal entity should include all transactions made by that entity, no matter how many separate accounts that entity has (*e.g.*, a Corporation with multiple brokerage accounts should include all transactions made in Bond Class Securities during the Class Period on one Proof of Claim, no matter how many accounts the transactions were made in). If you require additional room to list your transactions, please be sure to include your full name and the last four digits of your social security number or Tax ID number on each additional sheet. Check here if additional transactions are included on additional schedules. _____

**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN
MERRILL 8.625% NON-CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK, SERIES 8
(CUSIP: 060505559 FORMERLY KNOWN AS 59023V373) (“PREFERRED STOCK”)**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of Preferred Stock made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired Preferred Stock during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) Month/Day/Year	Number of Shares Purchased	Purchase Price Per Share	Total Purchase Price*
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees.

(ii) State the total number of shares of Preferred Stock the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write “zero” or “0.” (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of Preferred Stock made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**. Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) Month/Day/Year	Number of Shares Sold	Sales Price Per Share	Total Sales Price*
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total number of shares of Preferred Stock the Claimant owned at the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write “zero” or “0.” If other than zero, be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN MERRILL 6.11% SUBORDINATED
NOTES DUE JANUARY 29, 2037 (CUSIP: 59022CAJ2) ("6.11% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 6.11% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 6.11% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of <u>Notes Purchased</u>	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 6.11% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 6.11% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of <u>Notes Sold</u>	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 6.11% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN 5.70% SUBORDINATED NOTES
DUE MAY 2, 2017 (CUSIP: 59022CCS0) ("5.70% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 5.70% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 5.70% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Purchased	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 5.70% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 5.70% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Sold	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 5.70% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN MEDIUM-TERM NOTES,
SERIES C (CUSIP: 59018YE72) ("MEDIUM-TERM NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of Medium-Term Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired Medium-Term Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Purchased	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of Medium-Term Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of Medium-Term Notes, made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Sold	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of Medium-Term Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN 6.05% MEDIUM-TERM NOTES,
SERIES C (CUSIP: 59018YJ36) ("6.05% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 6.05% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 6.05% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	<u>Number of Notes Purchased</u>	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 6.05% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 6.05% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	<u>Number of Notes Sold</u>	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 6.05% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. (If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation.) _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN 6.40% MEDIUM-TERM NOTES,
SERIES C (CUSIP: 59018YJ69) ("6.40% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 6.40% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 6.40% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	<u>Number of Notes Purchased</u>	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 6.40% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 6.40% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	<u>Number of Notes Sold</u>	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 6.40% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN 5.45% MEDIUM-TERM NOTES,
SERIES C (CUSIP: 59018YM40) ("5.45% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 5.45% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 5.45% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Purchased	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 5.45% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 5.45% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Sold	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 5.45% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN 6.15% MEDIUM-TERM NOTES,
SERIES C (CUSIP: 59018YN56) ("6.15% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 6.15% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 6.15% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Purchased	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 6.15% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 6.15% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Sold	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_ / _ / _	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 6.15% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN 6.875% MEDIUM-TERM NOTES,
SERIES C (CUSIP: 59018YN64) ("6.875% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 6.875% Notes made by the Claimant in the Offering through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 6.875% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Purchased	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 6.875% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 6.875% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	Number of Notes Sold	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
____/____/____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 6.875% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

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**SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS IN 7.75% SUBORDINATED
NOTES (CUSIP: 59023VAA8) ("7.75% NOTES")**

A. PURCHASES: (i) List all purchases of 7.75% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **January 15, 2009**. (NOTE: If the Claimant acquired 7.75% Notes during this period other than by an open market purchase, please provide a complete description of the terms of the acquisition on a separate page.) Be sure to attach the required documentation.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	<u>Number of Notes Purchased</u>	Purchase Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price*</u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest paid.

(ii) State the total number of 7.75% Notes the Claimant purchased during the period **between January 16, 2009** through and including **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0." (NOTE: These purchases, which are not in the Class Period, are not included in the calculation of Recognized Loss or Gain Amounts.) _____

B. SALES: List all sales of 7.75% Notes made by the Claimant through and including **April 27, 2009**.

Trade Date(s) (List Chronologically) <u>Month/Day/Year</u>	<u>Number of Notes Sold</u>	Sales Price Per \$1,000 Face <u>Value Note</u>	<u>Total Sales Price*</u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u> / / </u>	<u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>

*Excluding commissions, transfer taxes or other fees and excluding the amount, if any, of accrued interest received.

C. UNSOLD HOLDINGS: State the total face value of 7.75% Notes owned by the Claimant as of the close of trading on **April 27, 2009**. If none, write "zero" or "0". Be sure to attach the required documentation. _____

**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR YOUR TRANSACTIONS IN THIS SECURITY PLEASE
PHOTOCOPY THIS PAGE, WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE COPY AND CHECK THIS BOX**
IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THIS BOX THESE ADDITIONAL PAGES MAY NOT BE REVIEWED

YOU MUST READ THE FOLLOWING RELEASE AND SIGN ON PAGE __.

RELEASE OF CLAIMS

I (we) understand and acknowledge that without further action by anyone, upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, each Class Member (including but not limited to any Class Member who is a party to any other action, arbitration or other proceeding who is asserting any Released Claims against any of the Defendants or other Released Parties that are pending on the Effective Date), on behalf of themselves, their heirs, joint tenants, tenants in common, beneficiaries, executors and administrators, predecessors, successors and assigns, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of law and of the judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, dismissed and forever discharged the Released Claims against each and all of the Released Parties, with prejudice and on the merits, without costs to any party, and whether or not a Proof of Claim and Release is executed and delivered by, or on behalf of, such Class Member.

SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

By signing and submitting this Proof of Claim and Release, the Claimant(s) or the person(s) who represents the Claimant(s) certifies, as follows:

1. that the Claimant(s) is a (are) Class Member(s), as defined in the Notice;
2. that I (we) have read and understand the contents of the Notice and the Proof of Claim;
3. that I (we) are not acting for any of the Defendants, nor am I (are we) such a Defendant or otherwise excluded from the Bond Class;
4. that I (we) have not filed a request for exclusion from the Bond Class and that I (we) do not know of any request for exclusion from the Bond Class filed on my (our) behalf with respect to my (our) transactions in Bond Class Securities;
5. that I (we) own(ed) the Bond Class Securities identified in the Proof of Claim, or that, in signing and submitting this Proof of Claim, I (we) have the authority to act on behalf of the owner(s) thereof;
6. that Claimant(s) may be entitled to receive a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund;
7. that Claimant(s) desires (desire) to participate in the settlement described in the Notice and agrees (agree) to the terms and conditions thereof;
8. that I (we) submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York for purposes of investigation and discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure with respect to this Proof of Claim;
9. that I (we) agree to furnish such additional information with respect to this Proof of Claim as the parties or the Court may require;
10. that I (we) waive trial by jury, to the extent it exists, and agree to the Court's summary disposition of the determination of the validity or amount of the claim made by this Proof of Claim; and
11. that I (we) certify that I am (we are) not subject to backup withholding under the provisions of Section 3406(a)(1)(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE: If you have been notified by the Internal Revenue Service that you are subject to backup withholding, please strike the language that you are not subject to backup withholding in the certification above. The Internal Revenue Service does not require your consent to any provision other than the certification required to avoid backup withholding.

I (We) declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the statements made and answers given in this Proof of Claim are true and correct and that the documents submitted herewith are true and genuine.

Signature of Claimant

Print Name of Claimant

Date

Signature of Joint Claimant, if any

Print Name of Joint Claimant

Date

If Claimant is other than an individual, or is not the person completing this form, the following also must be provided:

Signature of Person Completing Form

Print Name of Person Completing Form

Date

Capacity of Person Signing (Executor, President, Trustee, etc.)

REMINDER CHECKLIST

1. Please sign the Certification Section of the Proof of Claim and Release form.
2. If this Claim is being made on behalf of Joint Claimants, then both must sign.
3. Please remember to attach supporting documents.
4. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS OF ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.**
5. Keep a copy of your Proof of Claim and Release form and all documentation submitted for your records.
6. The Claims Administrator will acknowledge receipt of your Proof of Claim and Release by mail, within 60 days. Your claim is not deemed filed until you receive an acknowledgment postcard. If you do not receive an acknowledgment postcard within 60 days, please call the Claims Administrator toll free at 1-___-___-____.
7. If you move, please send your new address to: **Merrill Bond Action; c/o _____, P.P. Box _____, _____.**
8. **Do not use highlighter on the Proof of Claim and Release form or supporting documentation.**

THIS PROOF OF CLAIM MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN _____, ____.

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

401045.2

Exhibit A-3

IN RE MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
SECURITIES, DERIVATIVE AND ERISA
LITIGATION

Master File No. 07-cv-9633 (JSR)(DFE)

This Document Relates To:
Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, et al.
v. Conway, et al., 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE)

**SUMMARY NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION AND PROPOSED
SETTLEMENT, SETTLEMENT FAIRNESS HEARING AND MOTION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF LITIGATION EXPENSES**

TO: ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES THAT PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BOND CLASS SECURITIES OF MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. ("MERRILL") FROM THE DATES THEY WERE FIRST OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH AND INCLUDING JANUARY 15, 2009:

8.625% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 8
(Cusip Number: 060505559 formerly known as 59023V373);
6.11% Subordinated Notes due January 29, 2037 (Cusip Number: 59022CAJ2);
5.70% Subordinated Notes due May 2, 2017 (Cusip Number: 59022CCS0);
Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip Number: 59018YE72);
6.05% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip Number: 59018YJ36);
6.40% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip Number: 59018YJ69);
5.45% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip Number: 59018YM40);
6.15% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip Number: 59018YN56);
6.875% Medium-Term Notes, Series C (Cusip Number: 59018YN64); and
7.75% Subordinated Notes (Cusip Number: 59023VAA8).

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT PENDING IN THIS COURT.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Order of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, (i) of the pendency of this action asserting claims against Merrill and certain other defendants relating to the offerings of the Bond Class Securities (the "Merrill Bond Action") as a class action on behalf of the persons and entities described above who were allegedly damaged thereby (the "Bond Class"), except for certain persons and entities who are excluded from the Bond Class by definition; and (ii) that a settlement of the Merrill Bond Action for \$150 million in cash has been proposed. A hearing will be held on _____, 2009, at __: __.m., before

the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff, at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10007, Courtroom 14B: (i) to determine whether the proposed Settlement should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable, and adequate; (ii) to determine whether the Released Claims against Defendants and the other Released Parties should be dismissed with prejudice; (iii) to determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation should be approved as fair and reasonable; and (iv) to consider the application of Bond Counsel for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE BOND CLASS DESCRIBED ABOVE, YOUR RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PENDING ACTION AND THE SETTLEMENT, AND YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO SHARE IN THE SETTLEMENT FUND. If you have not yet received the full printed Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement, Settlement Fairness Hearing and Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses (the "Notice") and Proof of Claim form (the "Claim Form"), you may obtain copies of these documents by contacting the Claims Administrator:

Merrill Bond Action
c/o _____
P.O. Box ____
_____, _____
() ____-____

Copies of the Notice and Claim Form can also be downloaded from the website maintained by the Claims Administrator, www._____.com, or from Bond Counsel's website, www.blbglaw.com/cases/index.

If you are a member of the Bond Class, in order to be eligible to share in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, you must submit a Claim Form postmarked no later than _____, 2009. If you are a member of the Bond Class and do not exclude yourself from the Bond Class, you will be bound by any judgment entered in the Bond Action whether or not you make a Claim. To exclude yourself from the Bond Class, you must submit a request for exclusion such that it is *received* no later than _____, 2009, in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Notice. Any objections to the proposed Settlement, Plan of Allocation and/or application for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses must be filed with the Court and delivered to Bond Counsel and representative counsel for Defendants such that they are *received* no later than _____, 2009, in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Notice. If you are a member of the Bond Class and do not submit a proper Claim Form, you will not share in the Settlement Fund but you will nevertheless be bound by the Judgment of the Court.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE CLERK'S OFFICE REGARDING THIS NOTICE. Inquiries, other than requests for the Notice and Claim Form, may be made to Bond Counsel:

Mark Lebovitch, Esq
Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP
1285 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019
1 (800) 380-8496

By Order of the Court

#399831.7

Exhibit B

IN RE MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
SECURITIES, DERIVATIVE AND ERISA
LITIGATION

Master File No. 07-cv-9633 (JSR)(DFE)

This Document Relates To:
Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, et al.
v. Conway, et al., 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE)

ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT

This matter came for hearing on _____, 2009 (the "Settlement Hearing"), on the application of the parties to determine whether the terms and conditions of the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement dated August 12, 2009 (the "Settlement Stipulation") are fair, reasonable, and adequate for the settlement of all claims asserted by Plaintiffs Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System ("Bond Plaintiffs") on behalf of the Settlement Class against Defendants Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("Merrill"); E. Stanley O'Neal, John A. Thain, Jeffrey N. Edwards, Laurence A. Tosi, Ahmass L. Fakahany, Gregory J. Fleming, Armando M. Codina, Jill K. Conway, Alberto Cribiore, John D. Finnegan, Heinz-Joachim Neubürger, David K. Newbigging, Aulana L. Peters, Joseph W. Prueher, Ann N. Reese, Charles O. Rossotti, Virgis W. Colbert, Judith Mayhew Jonas and Carol T. Christ (the "Individual Defendants"); and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., UBS Securities LLC, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC (the "Underwriter Defendants," and together with Merrill and the Individual Defendants, the "Defendants") in the Corrected Amended Class Action Complaint for violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 dated March 18, 2009 (the "Amended

Complaint”) now pending in this Court in the securities class action styled *Louisiana Sheriffs’ Pension and Relief Fund, et al. v. Conway, et al.*, 08cv9063 (JSR)(DFE) (the “Bond Action”), and should be approved; whether judgment should be entered dismissing the Amended Complaint on the merits and with prejudice in favor of the Released Parties and as against all persons or entities who are members of the Settlement Class herein who have not requested exclusion therefrom, and releasing the Released Claims as against all Released Parties; and whether to approve the Plan of Allocation as a fair and reasonable method to allocate the settlement proceeds among the members of the Settlement Class.

The Court having considered all matters submitted to it at the Settlement Hearing and otherwise; and it appearing that a notice of the Settlement Hearing substantially in the form approved by the Court was mailed to all persons and entities reasonably identifiable, as shown by the records of Merrill’s transfer agent(s) and the records of the Underwriter Defendants, at the respective addresses set forth in such records, who purchased or otherwise acquired any Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period and were allegedly damaged thereby, except those persons or entities excluded from the definition of the Settlement Class, and that a summary notice of the hearing substantially in the form approved by the Court was published in the national edition of *The Wall Street Journal* and transmitted over the *PR Newswire* pursuant to the specifications of the Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

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

2. This Court has jurisdiction to enter this Order and Final Judgment. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Bond Action and over all parties to the Bond Action, including all Settlement Class Members.

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

4. The Court finally certifies, for purposes of the Settlement only, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this action as a class action on behalf of all persons and entities who purchased or otherwise acquired any Bond Class Securities during the Settlement Class Period and were allegedly damaged thereby (the "Settlement Class"). Excluded from the Settlement Class are Merrill; BAC; the Individual Defendants; members of the immediate families of the Individual Defendants; the Underwriter Defendants; the Former Defendants; any entity in which any Defendant, Former Defendant or BAC has or had a controlling interest; the current and former directors and officers of or partners in: (i) Merrill; (ii) BAC; (iii) any of the Underwriter Defendants; or (iv) any of the Former Defendants, and the legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns of any such excluded person or entity,

provided that any Investment Vehicle (as defined herein) shall not be deemed an excluded person or entity by definition. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are the persons and/or entities who timely and validly requested exclusion from the Settlement Class as listed on Exhibit 1 annexed hereto. [OR No timely and valid requests for exclusion from the Settlement Class were received.]

5. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for purposes of the Settlement only, this Court hereby finally certifies Bond Plaintiffs Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund and Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System as Class Representatives for the Settlement Class, and finally certifies the law firm of Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.

6. Notice of the pendency of the Bond Action as a class action and of the proposed Settlement was given to all Settlement Class Members who could be identified with reasonable effort. The form and method of notifying the Settlement Class of the pendency of the action as a class action and of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement met the requirements of due process, Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Section 27 of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. §77z-1(a)(7), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constituted due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto.

7. Pursuant to and in compliance with Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court hereby finds that due and adequate notice of these proceedings was directed to all persons and entities who are Settlement Class Members, advising them of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and Bond Counsel's intent to apply for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses associated with the Bond Action, and of their right to object thereto, and a

full and fair opportunity was accorded to all persons and entities who are Settlement Class Members to be heard with respect to the foregoing matters. Thus, it is hereby determined that all Settlement Class Members who did not timely and properly elect to exclude themselves by written communication postmarked or otherwise delivered on or before the date set forth in the Settlement Notice and the Preliminary Order, are bound by this Order and Final Judgment.

8. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court hereby approves the Settlement as set forth in the Settlement Stipulation, and finds that the Settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members, including Bond Plaintiffs. This Court further finds that the Settlement set forth in the Settlement Stipulation is the result of arm's-length negotiations between experienced counsel representing the interests of the settling parties. Accordingly, the Settlement embodied in the Settlement Stipulation is hereby approved in all respects and shall be consummated in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Settlement Stipulation.

9. The Amended Complaint, which the Court finds was filed on a good faith basis in accordance with the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act and Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure based upon all publicly available information, is hereby dismissed on the merits with prejudice as against the Released Parties and without costs except for the payments expressly provided for in the Settlement Stipulation.

10. The Court hereby finds that the proposed Plan of Allocation of the Net Settlement Fund, as set forth in the Settlement Notice, is in all respects, fair and reasonable, and the Court hereby approves the Plan of Allocation. The Court hereby finds that the formula for the calculation of the claims of Claimants that is set forth in the Settlement Notice provides a fair and reasonable basis upon which to allocate among Settlement Class Members the net proceeds

of the Settlement Fund established by the Settlement Stipulation, with due consideration having been given to overall fairness, and administrative convenience and necessity. The parties to the Settlement Stipulation are hereby directed to consummate and perform its terms.

11. Upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, Bond Plaintiffs and all other Settlement Class Members (including but not limited to any Settlement Class Member who is a party to any other action, arbitration or other proceeding who is asserting any Released Claims against any of the Defendants or other Released Parties that are pending on the Effective Date, whether or not such Person submits a Proof of Claim) on behalf of themselves, their heirs, joint tenants, tenants in common, beneficiaries, executors and administrators, predecessors, successors and assigns, release and shall be deemed to have released, dismissed and forever discharged the Released Claims against each and all of the Released Parties, with prejudice and on the merits, without costs to any party.

12. Upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, Bond Plaintiffs and all other Settlement Class Members, and anyone claiming through or on behalf of any of them, are 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, administrative forum, or other forum of any kind, asserting against any of the Released Parties, and each of them, any of the Released Claims.

13. Upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, all claims for contribution, indemnification, or any other form of relief by other alleged joint tortfeasors against the Released Parties based upon, arising out of, relating to, or in connection with the Released Claims of the Settlement Class or any Settlement Class Member, shall be barred, extinguished, discharged,

satisfied and otherwise rendered unenforceable to the full extent permitted by law, and the future filing of any such claims is enjoined.

14. Upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, Defendants and each of the other Released Parties, including any and all of their respective successors in interest, predecessors, representatives, trustees, executors, administrators, heirs, assigns or transferees, immediate and remote, and any Person or entity acting for or on behalf of, or claiming under any of them, and each of them, release Plaintiffs, Lead Plaintiff in the Consolidated Securities Action the State Teachers' Retirement System of Ohio, Bond Counsel, the other Settlement Class Members, counsel representing any of the aforementioned and each of their agents, predecessors, successors, assigns, personal representatives, heirs and any other Person submitting a Claim on behalf of a Settlement Class Member in the Bond Action, from any and all Released Parties' Claims.

15. Neither this Order and Final Judgment or the Settlement Stipulation, nor any of its terms and provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, nor any of the documents or statements referred to therein:

a. shall be offered or received against Defendants, other Released Parties, Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class as evidence of, or be deemed to be evidence of, any presumption, concession or admission by any of the Defendants or other Released Parties or by Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class with respect to the truth of any fact alleged by Bond Plaintiffs or the validity, or lack thereof, of any claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Bond Action or in any litigation, or the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Bond Action or in any

litigation, or of any liability, negligence, fault or wrongdoing of Defendants or other Released Parties;

b. shall be offered or received against the Released Parties as evidence of a presumption, concession or admission of any fault, misrepresentation or omission with respect to any statement or written document approved or made by any Released Party, or against Bond Plaintiffs or any of the other members of the Settlement Class as evidence of any infirmity in the claims of Bond Plaintiffs and the other members of the Settlement Class;

c. shall be offered or received against the Released Parties, Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class as evidence of a presumption, concession or admission with respect to any liability, negligence, fault or wrongdoing, or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the parties to the Settlement Stipulation, in any arbitration proceeding or other civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Settlement Stipulation; provided, however, that the Released Parties, Bond Plaintiffs and the other members of the Settlement Class may refer to the Settlement Stipulation to effectuate the liability protection granted them thereunder;

d. shall be construed against the Released Parties, Bond Counsel or Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class as an admission or concession that the consideration to be given under the Settlement Stipulation represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial; or

e. shall be construed as or received in evidence as an admission, concession or presumption against Bond Plaintiffs or the other members of the Settlement Class or any of them

that any of their claims are without merit or that damages recoverable under the Amended Complaint would not have exceeded the Settlement Fund.

16. The Court reserves jurisdiction, without affecting in any way the finality of this Order and Final Judgment, (a) over implementation and enforcement of the Settlement; (b) the allowance, disallowance or adjustment of any Settlement Class Member's claim on equitable grounds and any award or distribution of the Settlement Fund; (c) disposition of the Settlement Fund; (d) hearing and determining Bond Counsel's application for attorneys' fees, costs, interest and expenses, including fees and costs of experts and/or consultants; (e) enforcing and administering this Order and Final Judgment; (f) enforcing and administering the Settlement Stipulation including any releases executed in connection therewith; and (g) other matters related or ancillary to the foregoing.

17. The Payor Defendant shall have no obligation to make any payment into the Escrow Account except as specifically provided in paragraph 5 of the Settlement Stipulation.

18. The Court finds that during the course of the Bond Action, the parties and their respective counsel at all times complied with the requirements of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

19. A separate order shall be entered regarding Bond Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses as allowed by the Court. Such order shall not disturb or affect any of the terms of this Order and Final Judgment.

20. In the event that the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Stipulation or in the event that the Settlement Fund, or any portion thereof, is returned to the Payor Defendant, and such amount is not replaced by others, then this Order and Final Judgment shall be rendered null and void to the extent provided by and in

accordance with the Settlement Stipulation, and shall be vacated to the extent provided by the Settlement Stipulation and, in such event: (a) all Orders entered and releases delivered in connection herewith shall be null and void to the extent provided by and in accordance with the Settlement Stipulation; (b) the fact of the Settlement shall not be admissible in any trial of the Bond Action and the parties to the Settlement Stipulation shall be deemed to have reverted *nunc pro tunc* to their respective status in the Bond Action immediately before April 27, 2009; and (c) the balance of the Settlement Fund, less any Notice and Administration Expenses paid or incurred and less any Taxes and Tax Expenses paid, incurred, or owing, shall be returned in full as provided in paragraph 37 of the Settlement Stipulation.

21. Without further Order of the Court, the parties may agree to reasonable extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of the Settlement Stipulation.

22. There is no just reason for delay in the entry of this Order and Final Judgment and immediate entry by the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed.

Dated: New York, New York
_____, 2009

HONORABLE JED S. RAKOFF
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Exhibit 1

[A DRAFT EXHIBIT 1 WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE COURT IN ADVANCE OF THE SETTLEMENT HEARING AND AFTER THE DATE FOR FILING EXCLUSION REQUESTS HAS PASSED]

399832.8