#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA IN RE NEW CENTURY Case No. 2:07-cv-00931-DDP (FMOx) (Lead Case) EIMBURSEMENT OF ΓIGATION EXPENSES

#### I, MARVIN L. FRANK, declare as follows:

1. I am a partner of the law firm of Murray, Frank & Sailer LLP. I submit this declaration in support of Lead Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees in connection with services rendered by Plaintiffs' Counsel in the above-captioned consolidated securities class action (the "Action"), as well as for reimbursement of expenses incurred by my firm in connection with the Action. My firm is counsel of record for Carl Larson, a named plaintiff in the Action. In this capacity, my firm performed the following tasks: investigation of the facts and law relevant to the prosecution of this Action; briefing motions for appointment of



Judge: Hon. Dean D. Pregerson

lead plaintiff; drafting an initial complaint; assisting in drafting the second amended consolidated complaint, the memorandum of law in opposition to Defendants' motion to dismiss the second amended consolidated complaint, and motion to certify a class; responding to discovery requests; communications and meetings with counsel to Defendants and non-parties; settlement negotiations including preparing Lead Plaintiff's mediation statement and representing Mr. Larson at the mediation; drafting and negotiating the terms of the Stipulations of Settlement and related papers; and representing Mr. Larson at the preliminary approval hearing.

- 2. The schedule attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a detailed summary indicating the amount of time spent by each attorney and professional support staff of my firm who was involved in this Action, and the lodestar calculation based on my firm's current billing rates. For personnel who are no longer employed by my firm, the lodestar calculation is based upon the billing rates for such personnel in his or her final year of employment by my firm. The schedule was prepared from contemporaneous daily time records regularly prepared and maintained by my firm, which are available at the request of the Court. Time expended in preparing this application for fees and reimbursement of expenses has not been included in this request.
- 3. The hourly rates for the attorneys and professional support staff in my firm included in Exhibit 1 have been accepted in other securities or shareholder litigation.
- 4. The total number of hours expended on this litigation by my firm through August 16, 2010, is 542.6. The total lodestar for my firm is \$350,417.
- 5. My firm's lodestar figures are based upon the firm's billing rates, which rates do not include charges for expense items. Expense items are billed separately and such charges are not duplicated in my firm's billing rates.

- 6. As detailed in Exhibit 2, my firm has incurred a total of \$8,935.54 in paid unreimbursed expenses in connection with the prosecution of the Action.
- 7. The expenses incurred in this action are reflected on the books and records of my firm. These books and records are prepared from expense vouchers, check records and other source materials and are an accurate record of the expenses incurred.
- 8. I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing facts are true and correct under the laws of the United States of America.

Executed this August 16, 2010.

MARVIN L. FRANK

EXHIBIT 6
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#### **EXHIBIT 1**

#### MURRAY, FRANK & SAILER LLP

#### TIME REPORT

#### Inception through August 16, 2010

|                   |       | HOURLY |           |  |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-----------|--|
| NAME              | HOURS | RATE   | LODESTAR  |  |
| Partners:         |       |        |           |  |
| Brian P. Murray   | 44.5  | \$750  | \$33,375  |  |
| Marvin L. Frank   | 315.3 | \$750  | \$236,475 |  |
| Associates:       |       |        |           |  |
| Gregory B. Linkh  | 31.4  | \$550  | \$17,270  |  |
| Brian D. Brooks   | 12.3  | \$475  | \$5,843   |  |
| Bridget V. Hamill | 60.1  | \$450  | \$27,045  |  |
| Bradley Dyer      | 58.4  | \$425  | \$24,820  |  |
| Thomas J. Kennedy | 8.2   | \$425  | \$3,485   |  |
| Eva Hromadkova    | 0.5   | \$400  | \$200     |  |
| Paralegals:       |       |        |           |  |
| Nevila Gjyrezi    | 5.2   | \$160  | \$832     |  |
| Molly Gottshall   | 6.7   | \$160  | \$1,072   |  |
| TOTAL LODESTAR    | 542.6 |        | \$350,417 |  |

EXHIBIT S

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#### **EXHIBIT 2**

#### MURRAY, FRANK & SAILER LLP

#### **EXPENSE REPORT**

#### Inception through August 16, 2010

| CATEGORY                            | AMOUNT     |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| On-Line Research                    | \$371.92   |
| Telephones                          | \$806.40   |
| Express Mail -FedEx                 | \$383.36   |
| Postage                             | \$5.83     |
| Internal Copying<br>\$0.10 per page | \$81.50    |
| Travel, Meals & Lodging             | \$3,317.78 |
| Experts                             | \$3,968.75 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES:                     | \$8,935.54 |

EXHIBIT 6
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2. My firm is counsel of record for Charles Hooten, a named plaintiff in the Action. The Rossbacher Firm is local counsel to my firm on behalf of Charles Hooten. In these capacities, our firms performed the following tasks:

Preparation of pleadings on behalf class of option buyers and sellers represented by named plaintiff and class representative, Charles Hooten; in connection therewith, conferences with client regarding purchases and sales, responsibilities of the named plaintiff and a class representative;

Conferences and discussions (in conjunction with lead counsel) regarding motions to dismiss the operative consolidated class action complaint.

Participation in discovery requests both directed to plaintiffs and to defendants, and third party discovery and analysis; in conjunction therewith, discussions with lead counsel and with client, including review of client documents and discovery demands of defendants directed to client; in furtherance thereto, correspondence and telephone calls with lead counsel regarding discovery;

Preparation for deposition of client, including preparation of deposition outline for review with client and client production of documents in conjunction with such review; review of document request of accountants as directed to client and in connection therewith supplemental discovery discussed and reviewed with lead counsel; review and produce documents to

co-counsel and lead counsel in regard to document production; telephone conversations with lead counsel regarding response to defendant document request and meeting in regard thereto;

At the direction of lead counsel, prepare and review meet and confer letters with lead plaintiff and defendants and research and preparation of memoranda regarding loss causation and summary judgment as same relate to accounting issues;

Conference calls and discussions with lead counsel regarding accountant summary judgment motion;

Review of proposed settlement papers and allocation formulae and analysis of same; review of proposed Notice to class members regarding settlement and plan of allocation; in connection therewith, discussion with damages expert and review of all settlement papers and confidential damage analysis by plaintiff's expert;

Discussions with lead counsel in regard to allocation of settlement proceeds to option buyers and sellers; negotiation of amendment to proposed allocation;

Preparation for and attendance by telephone at Court hearing on preliminary approval of proposed settlement agreement with Plan of Allocation adjusted as per prior discussions with lead counsel; miscellaneous telephone calls and correspondence in regard to the foregoing.

In connection with the foregoing, miscellaneous telephone calls and conferences regarding ongoing matters concerning the litigation, and in connection therewith, telephone calls and discussions with client as to various issues and status of litigation at various stages.

- 3. The schedule attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a detailed summary indicating the amount of time spent by each attorney and professional support staff of our firms who was involved in this Action, and the lodestar calculation based on our firms' current billing rates. For personnel who are no longer employed by my firm, the lodestar calculation is based upon the billing rates for such personnel in his or her final year of employment by my firm. The schedule was prepared from contemporaneous daily time records regularly prepared and maintained by the firms, which are available at the request of the Court. Time expended in preparing this application for fees and reimbursement of expenses has not been included in this request.
- 4. The hourly rates for the attorneys and professional support staff included in Exhibit 1 are the same as the regular current rates charged for their services in non-contingent matters and/or which have been accepted in other securities or shareholder litigation.
- 5. The total number of hours expended on this litigation by my firm and local counsel through September 20, 2010, is 1,276.6. The total lodestar for the firms is \$ 592,492.00.
- 6. The firms' lodestar figures are based upon the firms' billing rates, which rates do not include charges for expense items. Expense items are billed separately and such charges are not duplicated in the firms' billing rates.

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- 7. As detailed in Exhibit 2, the firms have incurred a total of \$ 22,377.56 in paid unreimbursed expenses in connection with the prosecution of the Action.
- 8. The expenses incurred in this action are reflected on the books and records of the firms. These books and records are prepared from expense vouchers, check records and other source materials and are an accurate record of the expenses incurred.
- 9. I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing facts are true and correct under the laws of the United States of America

Executed this 29 day of September, 2010

EXHIBIT #

#### **EXHIBIT 1**

#### Zwerling, Schachter & Zwerling, LLP

#### TIME REPORT

#### Inception through September 15, 2010

|                     |        | HOURLY |    |   |
|---------------------|--------|--------|----|---|
| NAME                | HOURS  | RATE   | LO | DESTAR                                  |
| Partners:           |        |        |    |   |
| Jeffrey C. Zwerling | 73.2   | \$675  | \$ | 49,410                                  |
| Robert S. Schachter | 9.7    | \$675  | \$ | 6,548                                   |
| Susan Salvetti      | 0.5    | \$650  | \$ | 325                                     |
| Richard Speirs      | 274.3  | \$625  | \$ | 171,438                                 |
| Senior Counsel:     |        |        |    |   |
| Hillary Sobel       | 0.4    | \$525  | \$ | 210                                     |
| Stephen Brodsky     | 307.7  | \$495  | \$ | 152,312                                 |
| Associates:         |        |        |    | *************************************** |
| Sona R. Shah        | 0.8    | \$445  | \$ | 356                                     |
| Shaye J. Fuchs      | 0.8    | \$395  | \$ | 316                                     |
| Ana Cabassa         | 219.9  | \$395  | \$ | 86,861                                  |
| Stephanie E. Kirwan | 4.7    | \$325  | \$ | 1,528                                   |
| Kevin McGee         | 161.1  | \$470  | \$ | 75,717                                  |
| Paralegals:         |        |        |    |   |
| Jayne C. Nykolyn    | 73.0   | \$195  | \$ | 14,235                                  |
| Donald R. Lanier    | 1.4    | \$195  | \$ | 273                                     |
| Willy T. Gonzalez   | 24.9   | \$195  | \$ | 4,856                                   |
| TOTAL LODESTAR      | 1152.4 |        | \$ | 564,382                                 |

#### The Rossbacher Firm

#### TIME REPORT

### Inception through September 20, 2010

|                     |        | HOURLY |           |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| NAME                | HOURS  | RATE   | LODESTAR  |
| Partners:           |        |        |           |
| Henry H. Rossbacher | 8.8    | 625.00 | 6,250.00  |
| Associates:         |        |        |           |
| James S. Cahill     | 60     | 475.00 | 28,500    |
| Talin K. Tenley     | 13.20  | 360.00 | 4,752.00  |
| Paralegals:         |        |        |           |
| Martha E. Guilmette | 42.2   | 140.00 | 6,608.00  |
|                     |        |        |           |
| TOTAL LODESTAR      | 124.20 |        | 46,110.00 |

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EXHIBIT # PAGE 237

#### **EXHIBIT 2**

### Zwerling, Schachter & Zwerling, LLP

#### EXPENSE REPORT

#### Inception through September 15, 2010

| CATEGORY  | AMOUNT            |  |  |
|---|-------------------|--|--|
| Court Costs   |                   |  |  |
| Jeffrey C. Zwerling Pro Hac Vice                                | P615              |  |  |
| Filing Fees   | \$645             |  |  |
| On-Line Legal Research  | \$2,573.45        |  |  |
| Westlaw   | \$250 / 31 / 3    |  |  |
| Facsimile   | \$109.75          |  |  |
| Telephones  | \$77.28           |  |  |
| Express Mail  | £420.00           |  |  |
| Fed Ex  | \$430.90          |  |  |
| Postage   | \$211.82          |  |  |
| Internal Copying  | Ø5 207 <b>2</b> 5 |  |  |
| (.25/21549)   | \$5,387.25        |  |  |
| PR Newswire   | \$1,180           |  |  |
| Out of Town Travel  |                   |  |  |
| Richard Speirs, 6/17/07-6/18/07,                                | \$1,205.55        |  |  |
| Lead Plaintiff Hearing.   | Φ1,203.33         |  |  |
| Richard Speirs, 11/16/07- 11/17/07,                             |                   |  |  |
| Meeting with Charles Hooten.                                    | \$904.60          |  |  |
| Inffray C. Zwarling 11/16/07                                    |                   |  |  |
| Jeffrey C. Zwerling, 11/16/07-<br>11/17/07 Meeting with Charles |                   |  |  |
| Hooten.   | \$2,482.67        |  |  |
|   | Ψ2, 102,07        |  |  |
| Richard Speirs, 3/24/09 – 3/26-09,                              |                   |  |  |
| Client meeting and preparation for                              |                   |  |  |
| deposition.   | \$937.46          |  |  |
| Total Travel  | \$5,530.28        |  |  |

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| Secretarial Overtime | \$297.91    |
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| TOTAL EXPENSES:      | \$16,443.64 |

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# The Rossbacher Firm EXPENSE REPORT

#### Inception through September 20, 2010

| CATEGORY                         | AMOUNT   |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Filing Fees                      | 835.00   |
| On-Line Legal Research           | 154.90   |
| LexisNexis, Pacer                | 134.90   |
| Faxes                            | 269 50   |
| In-house                         | 268.50   |
| Telephones                       | 14.87    |
| Express Mail                     | 139.88   |
| Federal Express                  | 139.00   |
| Hand Delivery Charges – Attorney |          |
| Service                          | 250.51   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Legal            | 350.51   |
| Internal Copying                 | 2,239.25 |
| 8,957 pages @ \$.25              | 2,239.23 |
| Outside Copying                  | 1 114 80 |
| Pro Doc Management               | 1,114.80 |
| Out of Town Travel               | N/A      |
| Secretarial and Staff Overtime   | 337.00   |
| Secretarial and Staff Meals      | 94.58    |
| Postage                          | 348.23   |
| Parking                          | 36.40    |
| TOTAL EXPENSES:                  | 5,933.92 |

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EXHIBIT I

#### 2 3 6 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 IN RE NEW CENTURY Case No. 2:07-cv-00931-DDP (FMOx) (Lead Case) 13 14 ARATION OF NAMED 15 ORT OF REOUEST FOR EIMBURSEMENT OF 16 17 Judge: Hon. Dean D. Pregerson 18 19 I, CHARLES HOOTEN, declare as follows: 20 I am a Named Plaintiff and Court-appointed Class Representative in 21 I submit this declaration in support of my request for the above Action. 22 reimbursement of my reasonable costs and expenses directly related to its 23 representation of the Class, in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4). 24 Throughout the course of this litigation, I have been in contact with 25 Lead Counsel and/or my counsel of record, Zwerling, Schachter & Zwerling, LLP, 26 and participated in the prosecution of this litigation by among other things: 27 (i) Reading and studying of briefs; 28

- (ii) Reviewing and responding to ninety-eight (98) logged emails in regard to the prosecution of this action;
- (iii) Participation in various conference calls regarding the status of the litigation and case developments;
- (iv) Research all my trades, locate and collate documentation, and prepare an account evaluation spread-sheet;
- (v) Preparation for deposition testimony, including review with lead counsel and my class counsel;
- (vi) Provide ongoing documentation and correspondence in response to discovery requests of defendants.
- 3. In performing the duties and responsibilities above, I have expended a total of 29.2 hours in the prosecution of this litigation on behalf of the Class. Set forth below is a summary of the work I performed, number of hours, and reasonable rate, expended in the prosecution of this litigation on behalf of the Class. I seek reimbursement for a total of \$3,650 for this work pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4):

#### REIMBURSEMENT FOR TIME EXPENDED

From Inception to September 15, 2010

| Summary of Work Performed  | Hours | Reasonable<br>Rate |
|--|-------|--------------------|
| Research all my trades, locate and collate documentation, and prepare an account evaluation spread-sheet | 8.0 @ | \$125              |
| Continue and complete the account activity analysis and spread-sheet                                     | 5.6 @ | \$125              |

| Deposition preparation  | 4.0 @  | \$125   |
|---|--------|---------|
| Continued deposition preparation, and meeting with lead counsel | 8.0 @  | \$125   |
| Response to additional discovery requests                       | 3.6 @  | \$125   |
|   | TOTAL: | \$3,650 |

4. I am an independent businessman and registered professional engineer, and my source of income is compensation for my time at a billing rate of \$125 per hour.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct under the laws of the United States of America.

Executed this 22 day of September, 2010

Charles Hooten

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EXHIBIT J



## The D & O Diary

Posted at 4:56 AM on August 3, 2010 by Kevin LaCroix

#### First-Filed Subprime Securities Suit Settles for \$125 Million



The New Century Financial securities class action lawsuit – which was the first of the subprime-related securities class action lawsuits when it was filed in February 2007 – has been settled for \$124,827,088, subject to court approval. The plaintiffs' July 30, 2010 unopposed motion for settlement approval can be found here.

The settlement actually consists of three separate settlement stipulations and three corresponding settlement funds. Of the total settlement amount, \$65,077, 088 will be paid on behalf of the thirteen former New Century directors and officers; \$44,650,000 will be paid on behalf of KPMG, New Century's auditor; and \$15 million will be paid on behalf of the offering underwriter defendants.

The \$65 million to be paid in the class action settlement on behalf of the individual directors and officers is actually part of a larger settlement on the individuals' behalf. As reflected in the separate director and officer settlement stipulation filed in connection the motion for settlement approval, a total of \$91,102,331.51 will be paid in cash by eleven directors' and officers' liability insurers (which are listed on page 11 of the stipulation) in order to settle in whole or in part not only the claims against them in the securities class action lawsuits but also the claims pending against some or all of the individuals in proceedings before the SEC, in separate litigation brought against them by other plaintiffs, as well as bankruptcy trustee claims.

As reflected at greater length <a href="here">here</a>, plaintiff investors first filed their action against the defendants in February 2007. New Century filed for bankruptcy in April 2007. In March 2008, the New Century bankruptcy examiner filed a report (refer <a href="here">here</a>) finding, among other things, that the company had "engaged in a number of significant improper and imprudent practices related to its loan originations" that "created a ticking time bomb that detonated in 2007." On December 3, 2008, Central District of California Judge Dean Pregerson denied the defendants' motions to dismiss (refer <a href="here">here</a>).

The New Century Financial case was one of the higher profile subprime-related securities class action lawsuits and one of the most prominent in which the motion to dismiss was denied. However, as reflected in my running tally of subprime related case resolutions and settlements (which can be

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accessed <u>here</u>), it is only the fourth largest subprime securities suit settlement so far, behind the Countrywide settlement (\$624 million), the Merrill Lynch settlement (\$475 million) and the Merrill Lynch bondholders settlement (\$150 million).

Unlike those larger settlements, however, in the New Century Financial case there was no viable entity remaining to fund a larger settlement. The size of the insurers' contribution and the number of insurers involved in the D&O settlement stipulation suggests that the remaining D&O insurance was exhausted to fund the D&O portion of the settlement. These figures also suggest that there were certain constraints on the possible size of the settlement. KPMG's very sizeable contribution of \$44.75 million toward the settlement represents a significantly greater contribution that it paid in the much larger Countrywide settlement (\$24 million).

I suspect that this was an enormously difficult settlement to pull off. Given the number of parties, the number of proceedings, the number of insurers, and the amount of money at stake, trying to settle this case undoubtedly was challenging, particularly since continuing defense expenses eroded the amount of insurance remaining as the settlement negotiations went forward. I tip my hat to the lawyers involved in bringing this settlement together.

The SEC's separate July 30, 2010 announcement of its settlement of its enforcement action pending against three former New Century directors and officers can be found <a href="here">here</a>. The stipulation of settlement in the class action lawsuit specifies that the portion of the \$91 million in insurance funds is to be paid in part on behalf of the three individuals in the SEC proceeding; however, the stipulation specifies that these amounts "shall not be applied towards penalties owed pursuant to" the SEC settlement.

Another Subprime Securities Suit Settlement: In addition to the New Century Financial case, the subprime-related securities class action lawsuit involving The PMI Group also recently settled. The company announced in its August 3, 2010 filing on Form 1-Q (here) that on July 13, 2010 the parties agreed to a proposed settlement of \$31.25 million, subject to court approval. The settlement is to be funded entirely by The PMI Group's insurers. Background regarding the case can be found here. Like the New Century Financial case, the PMI Group subprime-related securities class action lawsuit had also survived a motion to dismiss, as discussed here.

A Different Sort of Insurance Cover: Being an astronaut is a dangerous occupation, and those that climb into space launch vehicles understandably would want life insurance in case the worst were to happen. However, life insurers have proven reluctant to insure astronauts.

As reflected in this fascinating post on the *UK Insurance* blog (here), the interesting way the crews for the Apollo 11 through 16 dealt with this issue was for each crew member to sign specially issued,

EXHIBIT J PAGE 244 stamped and marked envelopes, with the idea that were the worst to happen, the value of the "insurance covers" would "sky-rocket" allowing the astronauts' families to secure financial benefits without formal insurance.

Fortunately, none of the missions that used this makeshift form of insurance suffered any fatalities (though <u>Apollo 1</u> did meet an unfortunate fate and later Space Shuttle <u>Challenger</u> and <u>Columbia</u> missions did suffer terrible disasters). The Apollo missions "insurance covers" were never used and now trade among collectors.

Special thanks to loyal reader Chris Areheart for sending along this interesting item.

#### Trackbacks (0)

#### Comments (0)

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