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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

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| In re A10 NETWORKS, INC. SHAREHOLDER LITIGATION | Lead Case No. 1-15-CV-276207 |
| | CLASS ACTION |
| This Document Relates To: ALL ACTIONS. | MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND APPROVAL OF PLAN OF ALLOCATION |
| | Assigned for All Purposes to the Honorable Peter H. Kirwan |
| | DATE: January 13, 2017<br>TIME: 9:00 a.m.<br>DEPT: 1<br>DATE ACTION FILED: 01/29/15 |

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

**Page**

**CASES**

**Page**

**Page**



**STATUTES, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs City of Warren Police and Fire Retirement System, Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, and Michael Kaveney, on behalf of the Class certified for settlement purposes (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), respectfully submit this memorandum of points and authorities in support of their motion for final approval of the settlement of this class action (the "Litigation") on the terms set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement dated June 30, 2016 (the "Stipulation" or "Settlement"), and for approval of the Plan of Allocation of settlement proceeds.[1]

The proposed Settlement of $9,837,500 in cash is the culmination of litigation among the parties over more than a year, and is the product of day-long, arm's-length negotiations facilitated by the Honorable Layn R. Phillips (Ret.), a former United States District Judge and one of the nation's most well-respected and effective mediators of securities class actions. Lead Counsel believe that the Settlement represents a highly favorable result for the Class and warrants this Court's approval.

As further discussed below, the Settlement should be presumed fair because it was reached through arm's-length bargaining and Lead Counsel's investigation and prosecution of this case assured that Plaintiffs entered into the Settlement on a fully informed basis. Further, Lead Counsel are experienced in securities class action litigation and there have been no objections to the Settlement or Plan of Allocation to date.

Moreover, there is nothing to rebut the presumption of fairness. While Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel believe that the Litigation has substantial merit and they would have prevailed at trial, they considered the numerous risks raised by the arguments Defendants made in their demurrers and in settlement negotiations, as well as the risks in establishing liability and damages at trial. At trial, the jury could have sided with Defendants on some or all of the determinative issues, leaving the Class with little or no recovery.

Lead Counsel, who are well-respected and experienced in prosecuting shareholder class actions, have concluded that the Settlement is a highly favorable result and in the best interest of the Class. This conclusion is based on, among other things, the substantial recovery obtained when weighed against the

[1] Unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized terms have the meanings ascribed to them in the Stipulation.

significant risk, expense and delay presented in continuing this Litigation through trial and probable appeal; a complete analysis of the evidence obtained; past experience in litigating complex actions similar to the present action; and the serious disputes among the parties on both merits and damages issues.

For these and other reasons set forth below, as well as those set forth in the previously filed Declaration of James I. Jaconette in Support of Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement ("Jaconette Decl."), dated July 7, 2016,[2] Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant final approval to the Settlement and approve the Plan of Allocation as fair, reasonable, and adequate to Class Members.[3]

## II. THE SETTLEMENT IS FAIR, ADEQUATE, AND REASONABLE AND WARRANTS FINAL APPROVAL

### A. Standards Governing Final Approval of Class Action Settlements

"A class action shall not be dismissed, settled, or compromised without the approval of the court." Cal. Civ. Code §1781(f). When assessing a proposed class action settlement, the court's inquiry centers on whether the settlement is "fair, adequate, and reasonable." *Dunk v. Ford Motor Co.*, 48 Cal. App. 4th 1794, 1801 (1996). The inquiry "'must be limited to the extent necessary to reach a reasoned judgment that the agreement is not the product of fraud or overreaching by, or collusion between, the negotiating parties, and that the settlement, taken as a whole, is fair, reasonable and adequate to all concerned.'" *Id.*[4]

Accordingly, the court need not inquire into the result that might have been obtained at trial. *See Wershba v. Apple Computer, Inc.*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 224, 245 (2001). A review of the likely rewards of settlement and the risks and costs of continued litigation suffices. *See Northern Cty. Contractor's*

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[2] The Jaconette Declaration details Plaintiffs' claims, the procedural history of the Litigation, the efforts of Lead Counsel in prosecuting this Litigation, the risks of continued litigation, and why the Settlement is in the best interests of the Class.

[3] This memorandum focuses primarily upon the legal standards for approving the Settlement, and evaluating the Plan of Allocation. A separate memorandum is being submitted herewith in support of the motion for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses. For a complete factual recitation, Lead Counsel respectfully refer the Court to the Jaconette Declaration.

[4] Unless otherwise noted, citations are omitted throughout.

*Ass'n v. Touchstone Ins. Servs.*, 27 Cal. App. 4th 1085, 1091 (1994) (court must determine if settlement is in the "ballpark"). "'In most situations, unless the settlement is clearly inadequate, its acceptance and approval are preferable to lengthy and expensive litigation with uncertain results.'" *Nat'l Rural Telecomms. Coop. v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 221 F.R.D. 523, 526 (C.D. Cal. 2004).[5] Further, longstanding public policy strongly favors settlements. *See*, *e.g.*, *Hamilton v. Oakland Sch. Dist.*, 219 Cal. 322, 329 (1933) ("[I]t is the policy of the law to discourage litigation and to favor compromises."). This policy becomes an "overriding public interest" in class actions. *Bell v. Am. Title Ins. Co.*, 226 Cal. App. 3d 1589, 1608 (1991).

In determining whether a settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable, there is a "presumption of fairness . . . where: (1) the settlement is reached through arm's-length bargaining; (2) investigation and discovery are sufficient to allow counsel and the court to act intelligently; (3) counsel is experienced in similar litigation; and (4) the percentage of objectors is small." *Dunk*, 48 Cal. App. 4th at 1802; *see also Cellphone Termination Fee Cases*, 186 Cal. App. 4th 1380, 1389 (2010) (same).[6]

The court in *Dunk* set forth additional factors to be considered along with this presumption, including (1) the settlement amount; (2) the risks of continued litigation; (3) the stage of proceedings; (4) the complexity, expense, and likely duration of the litigation absent settlement; (5) the experience and views of class counsel; and (6) the reaction of class members. *Dunk*, 48 Cal. App. 4th at 1801. As discussed below, the Settlement is entitled to a presumption of fairness, and readily satisfies the additional *Dunk* factors.

**B. The Settlement Should Be Accorded a Presumption of Fairness**

The Settlement is presumptively fair. ***First***, the parties negotiated the Settlement at arm's length under the direct supervision of former Judge Layn R. Phillips (Ret.), a highly experienced and effective

[5] California courts also look to the standards developed by federal courts in reviewing and approving class action settlements. *See, e.g.*, *La Sala v. Am. Sav. & Loan Ass'n*, 5 Cal. 3d 864, 872 (1971).

[6] In *Robinson v. Audience, Inc.*, a class action that, like this Litigation, asserted federal statutory claims alleging material misstatements in connection with an initial public offering, this Court approved the settlement in part because "the settlement was reached following extensive discovery and investigation by experienced counsel who negotiated at arms-length with the assistance of two experienced mediators." Order Approving Class Action Settlement and Plan of Allocation and an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, *Robinson v. Audience, Inc.*, No. 1:12-cv-232227, slip op. at 6 (Super. Ct. Santa Clara Cty. June 10, 2016) (Kirwan, J.).

mediator in cases like this. *See In re Delphi Corp. Sec., Derivative & ERISA Litig.*, 248 F.R.D. 483, 498 (E.D. Mich. 2008) ("[T]he Court and the parties have had the added benefit of the insight and considerable talents of a former federal judge [Judge Phillips] who is one of the most prominent and highly skilled mediators of complex actions."). The negotiations included a day-long mediation session during which the parties' positions on merits and damages issues were discussed, and which were informed by detailed mediation briefs and supporting materials exchanged in advance. *See* Jaconette Decl., ¶¶29-35.

***Second***, the parties have engaged in sufficient pretrial investigation and discovery and other proceedings to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and defenses and enter into the Settlement on a fully informed basis. Lead Counsel, among other things:

(i) conducted a robust factual investigation of the events underlying the March 21, 2014 IPO of Defendant A10 Networks, Inc. ("A10" or the "Company") and the subsequent Q2 2014 and Q3 2014 earnings misses and other disclosures;

(ii) reviewed and analyzed the representations made by the Company in the Offering Documents for the IPO as well as other SEC filings;

(iii) reviewed and analyzed industry and securities analyst reports and comprehensive news reports, press releases and other media files concerning A10;

(iv) reviewed and analyzed witness accounts of A10's operations given by former A10 employees developed through Lead Counsel's factual investigation;

(v) researched and filed initial complaints, the consolidated Complaint, and the operative Amended Complaint;

(vi) briefed and argued for lifting the stay of discovery imposed by the Court during the pendency of a demurrer;

(vii) briefed, argued in opposition and prevailed against Defendants' joint demurrer to the Complaint nearly in its entirety;

(viii) briefed, argued in opposition and prevailed against the Defendants' motion to strike the substantive allegations in the Complaint;

(ix) reviewed and analyzed voluminous confidential data regarding A10's bookings, revenues, inventory and other financial and operational metrics and more than 93,000 pages of nonpublic confidential documents produced by A10 for purposes of mediation;

(x) produced documents to the Defendants for purposes of mediation evidencing the City of Warren's and ARTRS's purchases of A10 common stock;

(xi) consulted with and obtained a report from a consulting expert on damage and causation issues for purposes of mediation;

(xii) prepared and submitted detailed mediation submissions to Judge Phillips, including responses to Judge Phillips' written inquiries;

(xiii) prepared for and participated in a day-long mediation session before Judge Phillips, during which the strengths and weaknesses of the parties' positions were fully explored and debated; and

(xiv) participated in post-mediation negotiations facilitated by Judge Phillips culminating in the proposed Settlement.

Jaconette Decl., ¶28. Given these substantial efforts, Lead Counsel plainly were in a position to endorse the propriety of settlement based on an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the claims asserted, the defenses raised, and the risks of continued litigation.

***Third***, although the court must independently review the settlement, the judgment of experienced counsel regarding the settlement is entitled to great weight and supports a presumption of fairness. *See Nat'l Rural*, 221 F.R.D. at 528 ("'Great weight' is accorded to the recommendation of counsel, who are most closely acquainted with the facts of the underlying litigation."); *Dunk*, 48 Cal. App. 4th at 1802.

Lead Counsel here have extensive experience and expertise in the prosecution of securities class actions in federal and state courts throughout the country. *See* Jaconette Decl., ¶¶53-55 & Exs. B-C thereto (Robbins Geller and Labaton Sucharow firm resumes). Further, Lead Counsel here fully support the Settlement. It is Lead Counsel's informed opinion that the substantial and certain recovery of $9,837,500 is a highly favorable result for the Class when weighed against the uncertainty and substantial risk and expense of continuing this Litigation through trial and appeals. *Id.*, ¶47. The fact that qualified and well-informed counsel endorse the Settlement as being fair, adequate, and reasonable favors this Court's approval of the Settlement.

***Fourth***, the reaction of the Class to the Settlement supports a presumption of fairness. The Notice describes the nature of the Litigation, the terms of the Settlement, and the manner in which the Net Settlement Fund will be allocated among Class Members and an estimate of the per share recovery. The Notice also advises Class Members of their right to object and the procedures and deadlines for objecting to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or counsel's request for an award of attorneys' fees

and expenses. *See* Exhibit A to accompanying Declaration of Adam D. Walter of A.B. Data, Ltd. Regarding (A) Mailing of the Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action and the Proof of Claim and Release Form, (B) Publication of the Summary Notice, (C) Internet Posting, and (D) Requests for Exclusion Received to Date ("Walter Decl.").

Beginning on October 13, 2016, more than 19,000 Notices and Proofs of Claim were sent to potential Class Members and their nominees explaining the terms of the proposed Settlement. Walter Decl., ¶¶4-10. In addition, the Summary Notice was transmitted over the *PR Newswire* and published in *The Wall Street Journal* on October 21, 2016. *Id.*, ¶13. The Notice, Summary Notice, and other relevant information, including all deadlines, have been made publicly available on a case-dedicated website for the Settlement, www.A10SecuritiesSettlement.com. *Id.*, ¶12.

Although Class Members have until December 14, 2016 to object or exclude themselves from the Class, Lead Counsel are not aware of any objections to the Settlement or the Plan of Allocation as of the date hereof, and no one has requested exclusion from the Class. *See id.*, ¶14. The silence of the Class to date supports a presumption of fairness.[7] *See 7-Eleven Owners for Fair Franchising v. Southland Corp.*, 85 Cal. App. 4th 1135, 1153 (2000) (one factor that "lead[s] to a presumption the settlement was fair" is that only "a small percentage of objectors" came forward); *Nat'l Rural*, 221 F.R.D. at 529 (small number of objections raises strong presumption that settlement is fair).

### C. The Settlement Readily Satisfies the Additional *Dunk* Factors

#### 1. The Amount of the Settlement Balanced Against the Strength of Plaintiffs' Case Favors Approval

Each of the additional *Dunk* factors supports final approval. Under the Settlement, the Company and certain of its insurers have paid $9,837,500 in cash for the benefit of the Class, with no right of reversion. This $9,837,500 Settlement, if approved, would be in the range of court-approved settlements in recent years in class actions asserting federal statutory claims in California Superior Court for alleged material misstatements in the offering documents for a public stock offering. By

[7] If any objections are received, Plaintiffs will address them in a reply memorandum to be filed on January 6, 2017, in accordance with this Court's September 14, 2016 Order Preliminarily Approving Settlement and Providing for Notice ("Preliminary Approval Order").

comparison, the court-approved class action settlements in the *Audience*[8] action in this Court, the *CafePress*,[9] *Castlight Health*,[10] *Envivio*,[11] *Model N*[12] and *Pacific Biosciences*[13] actions in San Mateo County, and the *CardioNet*[14] action in San Diego County range from $6.05 million to $9.5 million. *See* Jaconette Decl., ¶38.

There are approximately 12.9 million allegedly damaged shares in this case, and to which the recovery will be allocated. Based on that and the assumption that Plaintiffs would meet their burden of proof and persuade the jury at trial as to each element of their *prima facie* claims, and that Plaintiffs would successfully rebut every affirmative defense Defendants intended to establish, damages to those shares are approximately $66 million. Accordingly, the percentage of recovery is approximately 15%. The percentage of recovery falls well within the range of approval, and courts have routinely approved settlements in securities class actions that recover comparable or smaller percentages. *See*, *e.g.*, *In re Omnivision Techs., Inc.*, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036, 1042 (N.D. Cal. 2007) ($13.75 million settlement yielding 6% of maximum damages was "higher than the median percentage of investor losses recovered in recent shareholder class action settlements"); *In re LDK Solar Sec. Litig.*, No. C 07-5182 WHA, 2010 WL 3001384, at *2 (N.D. Cal. July 29, 2010) ($16 million settlement yielding approximately 5% of maximum damages). Notably, competing damages models placed damages at $22 million, which, if chosen by the jury assuming Plaintiffs were in all other respects successful as set forth above, would mean the percentage of recovery is 45%.

Regardless of the specific percentage of recovery yielded by the Settlement, however, the Settlement is unquestionably better than another possibility—little or no recovery at all in view of the

[8] *Robinson v. Audience, Inc.*, No. 1:12-cv-232227 (Super. Ct. Santa Clara Cty.) (Kirwan, J.).

[9] *In re CafePress Inc. S'holder Litig.*, No. CIV522744 (Super. Ct. San Mateo Cty.).

[10] *In re Castlight Health, Inc. S'holder Litig.*, No. CIV533203 (Super. Ct. San Mateo Cty.).

[11] *Wiley v. Envivio, Inc.*, No. CIV517185 (Super. Ct. San Mateo Cty.).

[12] *Plymouth Cty. Ret. Sys. v. Model N, Inc.*, No. CIV530291 (Super. Ct. San Mateo Cty.).

[13] *In re Pacific Biosciences of Cal., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. CIV509210 (Super. Ct. San Mateo Cty.).

[14] *West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund v. CardioNet, Inc.*, No. 37-2010-00086836-CU-SL-CTL (Super. Ct. San Diego Cty.).

risks of continued litigation, discussed below. *See Wershba*, 91 Cal. App. 4th at 250 ("Compromise is inherent and necessary in the settlement process . . . even if 'the relief afforded by the proposed settlement is substantially narrower than it would be if the suits were to be successfully litigated,' this is no bar to a class settlement because 'the public interest may indeed be served by a voluntary settlement in which each side gives ground in the interest of avoiding litigation.'"). This factor supports final approval of the Settlement.

**2. The Substantial Risks of Continued Litigation**

**a. Risks Related to Establishing Liability**

While Plaintiffs believe their claims are strong on the merits, success is hardly assured. Defendants have and would continue to maintain that Plaintiffs cannot demonstrate the materiality or falsity of any the challenged statements in the Registration Statement and Prospectus. Defendants would likely argue at the summary judgment stage and at trial, for example, that there was no undisclosed negative trend in bookings by North American service providers at the time of the IPO, and that there was in fact a positive trend in 2013. Defendants would also argue that no slowdown in such bookings occurred until months after the IPO. Defendants would argue further that AX Series and Thunder Series products were fully interoperable and sold side-by-side, and that no material amount of sales in 2013 were "forced upgrades" to existing customers. *See* Jaconette Decl., ¶44.

While Plaintiffs have substantial responses to these arguments, the uncertainty of continued litigation weighs strongly in favor of approval of the Settlement. As one court has observed:

> It is known from past experience that no matter how confident one may be of the outcome of litigation, such confidence is often misplaced. Merely by way of example, two instances in this Court may be cited where offers of settlement were rejected by some plaintiffs and were disapproved by this Court. The trial in each case then resulted unfavorably for plaintiffs; in one case they recovered nothing and in the other they recovered less than the amount which had been offered in settlement.

*W. Va. v. Chas. Pfizer & Co.*, 314 F. Supp. 710, 743-44 (S.D.N.Y. 1970), *aff'd*, 440 F.2d 1079 (2d Cir. 1971); *see also Bellows v. NCO Fin. Sys., Inc.*, No. 3:07-cv-01413-W-AJB, 2008 WL 5458986, at *7 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2008) ("[W]hile Class Counsel believe strongly in the merit of the class claims, they also recognize that any case encompasses risks and that settlement of contested cases is preferred in this circuit. Indeed, even if Plaintiff were to prevail at trial, risks to the class remain."); *In re Heritage Bond*

*Litig.*, No. 02-ML-1475 DT, 2005 WL 1594403, at *7 (C.D. Cal. June 10, 2005) ("Also favoring approval of the Settlement is the knowledge that, while Plaintiffs are confident of the strength of their case, it is imprudent to presume ultimate success at trial and thereafter.") (both citing *Chas. Pfizer*, 314 F. Supp. at 743-44). The numerous uncertainties and risks of proving liability at and after trial support approval of the Settlement.

**b. Risks Relating to Establishing Causation and Damages**

Although Plaintiffs were confident that they could establish damages assuming a finding of liability, Plaintiffs faced a risk that the Court or jury would substantially reduce or even eliminate damages. Under Section 11(e) of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. §77k(e), a defendant can reduce or eliminate damages through a showing that the false or misleading statements or omissions alleged were not the cause, in whole or in part, of the loss sustained by the class. Defendants would attempt to establish such "negative causation" at both summary judgment and trial.

Defendants would doubtless contend, for example, that the losses sustained by the Class were attributable not to any misrepresentation but rather to unforeseen market-wide events affecting A10's key customers (service providers and wireless carriers) as well as itself in key geographical markets (Japan and North America), months after the IPO. Defendants would contend further that some or all of Plaintiffs' losses were caused by a sharp downturn in Japan's economy, illustrated by the stock price losses during the Class Period that accompanied the announcement of a quarterly decline in total revenue in Japan due to lower than expected revenue from Japanese service providers as several large deals were extended. Defendants would also point to market-wide downturns that accompanied the slowdown in expected bookings in North America, arguing that these market forces were instead responsible for the decline in A10's stock price.

In addition to geographic market-wide forces, Defendants would contend that A10 was not alone among its peers in suffering a stock price decline. Given the sudden slowdown in demand for networking products during the Class Period, Defendants would point out that A10's competitors, including Alcatel-Lucent, Brocade, Cisco, F5 Networks, Juniper Networks, and Radware, all experienced stock price declines during the Class Period. Defendants would also contend that A10's

largest customers drastically reduced their capital expenditures during the Class Period, and that market indices for wireless carriers and cable providers also declined during the Class Period.

Finally, even if Plaintiffs proved that A10 omitted material information concerning the longer sales cycles and customer product saturation, Defendants would contend that only a small portion of the October 8, 2014 stock price drop was attributable to the corrective disclosures of these omissions, with the majority of the losses stemming from declining overall market demand and competitive pressure. *See* Jaconette Decl., ¶45.

The parties' respective experts would offer sharply divergent testimony concerning damages at both summary judgment and trial, reducing the determination of this element to a "battle of the experts." *See In re Tyco Int'l, Ltd.*, 535 F. Supp. 2d 249, 260-61 (D.N.H. 2007) (fact that "trial would likely involve a confusing 'battle of the experts' over damages" supported approval of settlement). Plaintiffs faced a substantial risk that the factfinder would credit Defendants' contentions that damages were not linked to the misstatements in the Offering Documents or that damages were a fraction of the amount Plaintiffs proffered. *See In re Warner Commc'ns Sec. Litig.*, 618 F. Supp. 735, 744-45 (S.D.N.Y. 1985) (approving settlement where "it is virtually impossible to predict with any certainty which testimony would be credited, and ultimately, which damages would be found to have been caused by actionable, rather than the myriad nonactionable factors such as general market conditions"), *aff'd*, 798 F.2d 35 (2d Cir. 1986).

Even if Plaintiffs were to obtain 100% of their damages, the risks would not end there. *See In re Mfrs. Life Ins. Co. Premium Litig.*, No. 96-CV-230 BTM (AJB), 1998 WL 1993385, at *5 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 21, 1998) ("[E]ven if it is assumed that a successful outcome for plaintiffs at summary judgment or at trial would yield a greater recovery than the Settlement – which is not at all apparent – there is easily enough uncertainty in the mix to support settling the dispute rather than risking no recovery in future proceedings."). There are numerous cases in which a successful verdict has been overturned either by motion after trial or an appeal. In *In re Apple Computer Sec. Litig.*, No. C-84-20148(A)-JW, 1991 WL 238298, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 6, 1991), for example, the jury rendered a verdict for plaintiffs after an extended trial. Based upon the jury's findings, recoverable damages would have exceeded $100 million. The court, however, overturned the verdict, entered judgment for the individual

defendants, and ordered a new trial with respect to the corporate defendant. *See also*, *e.g.*, *Glickenhaus & Co. v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, 787 F.3d 408, 433 (7th Cir. 2015) (reversing and remanding jury verdict of $2.46 billion after 13 years of litigation on loss causation grounds and error in jury instruction under *Janus Capital Grp., Inc. v. First Derivative Traders*, 564 U.S. 135 (2011)); *In re BankAtlantic Bancorp, Inc.*, No. 07-61542-CIV, 2011 WL 1585605, at *20 (S.D. Fla. Apr. 25, 2011) (after plaintiffs' jury verdict, court granted defendants' motion for judgment as a matter of law and entered judgment for defendants), *aff'd*, 688 F.3d 713 (11th Cir. 2012) (finding trial court erred, but defendants nevertheless entitled to judgment as a matter of law based on lack of loss causation); Jaconette Decl., ¶46. Litigation risks on liability and damages support approval of the Settlement.

**3. Plaintiffs Had Sufficient Information to Negotiate and Obtain a Fair Settlement**

This factor focuses on whether the parties had sufficient information to conduct an informed negotiation for a settlement that adequately reflects the merits of the case. "'[I]n the context of class action settlements, "formal discovery is not a necessary ticket to the bargaining table" where the parties have sufficient information to make an informed decision about settlement.'" *In re Mego Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 213 F.3d 454, 459 (9th Cir. 2000); *see also In re OCA, Inc. Sec. & Derivative Litig.*, No. 05-2165, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19210, at *39-*40 (E.D. La. Mar. 2, 2009) ("The question is not whether the parties have completed a particular amount of discovery, but whether the parties have obtained sufficient information about the strengths and weaknesses of their respective cases to make a reasoned judgment about the desirability of settling the case on the terms proposed or continuing to litigate it.").

As detailed above, when the parties reached the Settlement, Lead Counsel had sufficiently investigated and researched the merits of their claims and Defendants' potential defenses to determine that the terms of the Settlement are fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the Class. Lead Counsel's reasoned judgment was obtained after more than a year of litigation, during which time they drafted detailed complaints; collected witness accounts of A10's operations given by former A10 employees; reviewed hundreds of pages of SEC filings; investigated and researched the facts and issues required to craft the complaints; successfully opposed Defendants' joint demurrer and motion to strike; reviewed voluminous confidential data and more than 93,000 pages of confidential documents produced

by A10; obtained a report from a consulting expert on damages issues; and participated in mediated settlement negotiations during which the strengths and weaknesses of the parties' positions were fully explored and debated. Jaconette Decl., ¶¶28-35. The knowledge and insight gained through these activities provided Lead Counsel with sufficient information to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Class' claims and Defendants' defenses, as well as the likelihood of obtaining a larger recovery from Defendants had the Litigation continued.

**4. Balancing the Certainty of an Immediate Recovery Against the Complexity, Expense, and Likely Duration of Continued Litigation and Trial Favors Settlement**

The immediacy and certainty of a recovery balanced against the complexity, expense and duration of continued litigation is another factor for the Court to balance in determining whether the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. *See Wershba*, 91 Cal. App. 4th at 244-45; *Dunk*, 48 Cal. App. 4th at 1801. The benefit of the present settlement must be balanced against the expense of achieving a more favorable result at a trial in the future.

Approval of the Settlement assures a prompt and significant recovery for Class Members. If not for the Settlement, this Litigation would continue to proceed through the completion of document and deposition discovery, expert discovery, summary judgment, trial, and likely appeal. A trial would occupy teams of attorneys for weeks and would require substantial and costly expert testimony on both sides. Further, a judgment favorable to the Class, in light of the contested nature of virtually every aspect of this case, would unquestionably be the subject of post-trial motions and appeals, which would prolong the case for several more years. *See Warner Commc'ns*, 618 F. Supp. at 745 (delay from appeals is factor to be considered). Delay, not just at the trial stage, but through post-trial motions and the appellate process as well, could force Class Members to wait many more years for any recovery, further reducing its value. Settlement of this Litigation ensures an immediate recovery, and eliminates the risk of no recovery at all.

The essence of a settlement is compromise, "'a yielding of absolutes and an abandoning of highest hopes.'" *Officers for Justice v. Civil Serv. Comm'n*, 688 F.2d 615, 624 (9th Cir. 1982). "'[T]he agreement reached normally embodies a compromise; in exchange for the saving of cost and elimination of risk, the parties each give up something they might have won had they proceeded with

litigation.'" *Id*. The certainty of recovery balanced against the complexity, expense, and duration of continued litigation weighs in favor of approval of the Settlement. Jaconette Decl., ¶48.

**5. The Recommendations of Experienced Counsel Favor Approval of the Settlement**

The views of the attorneys actively conducting the litigation, while not conclusive, are entitled to weight in the fairness analysis. *Dunk*, 48 Cal. App. 4th at 1802; *see also Omnivision*, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1043 ("'The recommendations of plaintiffs' counsel should be given a presumption of reasonableness.'"). Lead Counsel, who have extensive experience in the prosecution of securities class actions, commend the Settlement to the Court as in the best interests of the Class.[15] *See* Jaconette Decl., ¶¶47, 53-55 & Exs. B-C thereto.

In sum, because each of the *Dunk* factors supports a finding that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, the Court should approve the Settlement.

## III. THE PLAN OF ALLOCATION IS FAIR AND REASONABLE AND SHOULD BE APPROVED

Plaintiffs also seek approval of the Plan of Allocation. The Plan of Allocation is set forth in full in the Notice mailed to potential Class Members. *See* Walter Decl. Ex. A, at 3-4. Assessment of a plan of allocation in a class action is governed by the same standards of review applicable to the settlement as a whole – the plan must be fair and reasonable. *See Class Plaintiffs v. Seattle*, 955 F.2d 1268, 1284 (9th Cir. 1992). An allocation formula "'need only have a reasonable, rational basis, particularly if recommended by experienced and competent'" class counsel. *E.g.*, *In re Zynga Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 12-cv-04007-JSC, 2015 WL 6471171, at *12 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 27, 2015). No objections to the Plan of Allocation have been filed to date.

The Plan of Allocation provides an equitable basis to allocate the Net Settlement Fund among all Class Members who submit an acceptable Proof of Claim. The Plan of Allocation was developed by Lead Counsel with the assistance of their damages consultants and reflects an assessment of the damages that could have been recovered at trial. *See* Jaconette Decl., ¶6. Accordingly, Plaintiffs

[15] The reaction of the Class is also relevant to the fairness of the Settlement. *See Dunk*, 48 Cal. App. 4th at 1801. As noted above, there have been no objections and no opt-outs to date. If any timely objections are submitted, Plaintiffs will address them in a reply memorandum.

respectfully submit that the Plan of Allocation is a fair and reasonable method for allocating the Net Settlement Fund among the Members of the Class.

## IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant final approval to the Settlement, approve the Plan of Allocation, and enter the proposed Order and Final Judgment.

DATED: November 30, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I, the undersigned, declare:

1. That declarant is and was, at all times herein mentioned, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of San Diego, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to or interested party in the within action; that declarant's business address is 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101.

2. That on November 30, 2016, declarant served the **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND APPROVAL OF PLAN OF ALLOCATION** by depositing a true copy thereof in a United States mailbox at San Diego, California in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the parties listed on the attached Service List.

3. That there is a regular communication by mail between the place of mailing and the places so addressed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on November 30, 2016, at San Diego, California.

JACLYN STARK

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