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CUSTOMER CLASS COUNSELS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE REPLY TO SPECIAL MASTER'S RESPONSE TO THEIR MOTION FOR AN ACCOUNTING, AND FOR CLARIFICATION THAT THE <u>MASTER'S ROLE HAS CONCLUDED</u>

Case 1:11-cv-10230-MLW Document 393 Filed 07/13/18 Page 2 of 4

Labaton Sucharow LLP, Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, and The Thornton Law Firm ("Customer Class Counsel") respectfully move for leave to file a reply memorandum in support of their Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded, filed under seal on June 19, 2018. Customer Class Counsel seek to respond to arguments advanced by the Special Master in his Response to Customer Class Counsels' Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role has Concluded, which was filed under seal on July 3, 2018. Customer Class Counsels' proposed reply memorandum is limited to eight pages and is attached as <u>Exhibit A</u> to this Motion.¹

Customer Class Counsels' proposed reply memorandum addresses, in focused fashion, arguments set forth in the Master's Reponse.

WHEREFORE, Customer Class Counsel respectfully request that the Court grant their motion for leave.

¹ Customer Class Counsels' Motion for Leave to File a Reply is being filed via ECF, along with Customer Class Counsels' Motion to Impound their Proposed Reply. Customer Class Counsels' Proposed Reply, which is <u>Exhibit A</u> to this motion, is subject to their pending Motion to Impound and is thus being filed conventionally under seal.

Dated: July 13, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Joan A. Lukey

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Counsel for Labaton Sucharow LLP

By: /s/ Richard M. Heimann

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Attorney for Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP

By: /s/ Brian T. Kelly

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Counsel for The Thornton Law Firm LLP

<u>CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 7.1(a)(2)</u>

Labaton's counsel, on behalf of Customer Class Counsel, contacted other counsel in this case in order to confer regarding the substance of this motion. State Street does not oppose the motion. Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, McTigue Law LLP and Keller Rohrback take no position on the relief requested. Counsel for the Special Master have not indicated their position as of the time of filing.

/s/ Joan A. Lukey Joan A. Lukey

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this document filed through the ECF system will be sent electronically to all counsel of record on July 13, 2018.

/s/ Joan A. Lukey Joan A. Lukey

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CUSTOMER CLASS COUNSELS' MOTION TO IMPOUND PROPOSED REPLY TO SPECIAL MASTER'S RESPONSE TO THEIR MOTION FOR AN ACCOUNTING, AND FOR CLARIFICATION THAT THE <u>MASTER'S ROLE HAS CONCLUDED</u>

Case 1:11-cv-10230-MLW Document 394 Filed 07/13/18 Page 2 of 5

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 7(b) and District of Massachusetts Local Rule 7.2, Labaton Sucharow LLP, Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, and The Thornton Law Firm ("Customer Class Counsel") respectfully move to impound their Proposed Reply to the Special Master's Response to Their Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded (the "Proposed Reply"), which is <u>Exhibit A</u> to Customer Class Counsels' Motion for Leave to File Reply to Special Master's Response to Their Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded.¹

1. On May 16, 2018, this Court issued an Order confirming that the Special Master's Report and Recommendations, the related Executive Summary, and all attached exhibits (collectively, the "Master's Submission") were under seal in their entirety, and setting forth a process by which the parties could seek redactions so that a public version could be unsealed. ECF 223. On June 28, 2018, the Court unsealed the Report and Recommendations (with limited redactions) and the Executive Summary. ECF 357; 357-1.

2. On June 19, 2018, Customer Class Counsel filed their Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded (the "Motion"). ECF 302. Customer Class Counsels' Memorandum in Support of their Motion, along with the supporting June 19, 2018 Transmittal Declaration of Joan A. Lukey, referenced information discussed in the Master's Report and Recommendations, along with other information that was under seal (some of which has not been unsealed). *See* ECF 301. Thus, pursuant to this Court's orders, Customer Class Counsel filed their Memorandum and the Lukey Transmittal Declaration under seal. *See id.*

¹ Customer Class Counsels' Motion for Leave to File a Reply to Special Master's Response to Their Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded is being filed on ECF, while <u>Exhibit A</u> to that Motion (i.e., Customer Class Counsels' Proposed Reply) is being filed conventionally under seal.

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3. In its June 28, 2018 Order, the Court directed the Master to respond to Customer Class Counsels' Motion. ECF 364. The Master filed his Response under seal on July 3, 2018, and a redacted version of his Response under seal on July 5, 2018.

4. Although Customer Class Counsel do not believe that the Proposed Reply contains information that needs to be sealed, it contains discussion of the Master's Response, which remains sealed. Accordingly, in an abundance of caution, Customer Class Counsel move pursuant to D. Mass. L.R. 7.2 to impound their Proposed Reply until this Court's further order.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth herein, Customer Class Counsel respectfully request that the Court temporarily impound their Proposed Reply to the Special Master's Response to Their Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded, which is <u>Exhibit A</u> to Customer Class Counsels' Motion for Leave to File Reply to Special Master's Response to Their Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded.

Dated: July 13, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Joan A. Lukey

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Counsel for Labaton Sucharow LLP

By: /s/ Richard M. Heimann

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Attorney for Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP

By: /s/ Brian T. Kelly

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Counsel for The Thornton Law Firm LLP

<u>CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 7.1(a)(2)</u></u>

Labaton's counsel, on behalf of Customer Class Counsel, contacted other counsel in this case in order to confer regarding the substance of this motion. State Street does not oppose the motion. Keller Rohrback and McTigue Law LLP take no position on the relief requested. Zuckerman Spaeder LLP and counsel for the Special Master have not indicated their positions as of the time of filing.

/s/ Joan A. Lukey Joan A. Lukey

Case 1:11-cv-10230-MLW Document 394 Filed 07/13/18 Page 5 of 5

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this document filed through the ECF system will be sent electronically to all counsel of record on July 13, 2018.

/s/ Joan A. Lukey Joan A. Lukey

| ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM, on behalf of itself and all others similarly situated, | |
|---|---------------------|
| Plaintiffs, | |
| V. | No. 11-cv-10230 MLW |
| STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, | |
| Defendant. | |
| ARNOLD HENRIQUEZ, MICHAEL T. COHN, WILLIAM R. TAYLOR, RICHARD A. SUTHERLAND, and those similarly situated, | |
| Plaintiffs, | No. 11-cv-12049 MLW |
| V. | |
| STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, STATE STREET GLOBAL MARKETS, LLC and DOES 1-20, | |
| Defendants. | |
| THE ANDOVER COMPANIES EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND PROFIT SHARING PLAN, on behalf of itself, and JAMES PEHOUSHEK-STANGELAND, and all others similarly situated, | |
| Plaintiffs, | No. 12-cv-11698 MLW |
| V. | |
| STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, | |
| Defendant. | |

LABATON SUCHAROW LLP'S MOTION FOR PARTIAL STAY PENDING <u>RESOLUTION OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS</u>

Case 1:11-cv-10230-MLW Document 395 Filed 07/13/18 Page 2 of 3

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 7(b) and Local Rule 7.1, Labaton Sucharow LLP ("Labaton") respectfully moves for a temporary stay of any substantive decisions¹ by the Court, pending a determination by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit of Labaton's Petition for Writ of Mandamus, filed on July 6, 2018. Labaton has asked the Court of Appeals to direct this Court to vacate its order denying Labaton's motion for recusal pursuant to § 455(a), and to recuse itself from this case. For the reasons set forth in the accompanying memorandum of law, which is incorporated herein, this Court should refrain from taking further substantive action in this case until the Court of Appeals has the opportunity to rule on, and resolve, the petition.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth herein, Labaton respectfully requests that the Court grant a partial stay, and defer any substantive decisions pending the resolution by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit of Labaton's Petition for Writ of Mandamus.

¹ In order to avoid unnecessary delay, Labaton is not asking the Court to stay the deadlines for the parties to submit proposed redactions, nor is Labaton asking the Court to refrain from making decisions regarding the timing and substance of redaction requests. Labaton's motion is directed at all substantive decisions, including, without limitation, action on the Special Master's Report and Recommendation (and the objections thereto), as well as action on Customer Class Counsels' Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded (ECF No. 302).

Dated: July 13, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Joan A. Lukey

Joan A. Lukey (BBO No. 307340) Justin J. Wolosz (BBO No. 643543) Stuart M. Glass (BBO No. 641466) CHOATE, HALL & STEWART LLP Two International Place Boston, MA 02110 Tel. (617) 248-5000 Fax: (617) 248-5000 Fax: (617) 248-4000 joan.lukey@choate.com jwolosz@choate.com sglass@choate.com

Counsel for Labaton Sucharow LLP

<u>CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 7.1(a)(2)</u></u>

Labaton's counsel contacted other counsel in this case in order to confer regarding the substance of this motion. Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP does not object. The Thornton Law Firm, State Street, Keller Rohrback L.L.P., and Zuckerman Spaeder LLP take no position. McTigue Law LLP and Counsel for the Special Master oppose.

/s/ Joan A. Lukey Joan A. Lukey

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this document filed through the ECF system will be sent electronically to all counsel of record on July 13, 2018.

<u>/s/ Joan A. Lukey</u> Joan A. Lukey

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MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF LABATON SUCHAROW LLP'S MOTION FOR PARTIAL STAY PENDING RESOLUTION OF <u>PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS</u>

Case 1:11-cv-10230-MLW Document 396 Filed 07/13/18 Page 2 of 7

Labaton Sucharow LLP ("Labaton") hereby submits this Memorandum in support of its Motion for Partial Stay Pending Resolution of Petition for Writ of Mandamus. For the reasons explained below, a temporary stay is warranted in order to allow the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit to consider and decide the Petition for Writ of Mandamus (the "Mandamus Petition"), which will thereby determine which judge will preside over this case going forward.¹

Background

Following a fourteen-month investigation into issues relating to the attorneys' fees, expenses, and service awards made in the above-captioned case, on May 14, 2018, the Special Master (the "Master") submitted his 377-page Report and Recommendations ("Report"). As Labaton has explained in other filings, the Master's Report includes novel, unorthodox, and at times plainly incorrect findings of fact and conclusions of law, with which Labaton firmly disagrees. *See* Labaton Sucharow LLP's Objections to Special Master's Report and Recommendations (filed under seal on June 28, 2018; redacted version at ECF No. 359); Labaton Sucharow LLP's Supplemental Objections to Special Master's Report and Recommendations (ECF No. 379).

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(f), the Court must now review the findings and conclusions in the Master's Report *de novo*. Among the issues that the Court will

¹ Labaton is not asking the Court to stay the deadlines for the parties to submit proposed redactions, nor is Labaton asking the Court to refrain from making decisions regarding the timing and substance of redaction requests. Labaton's motion is directed at all substantive decisions, including, without limitation, action on the Special Master's Report and Recommendation (and the objections thereto), as well as action on Customer Class Counsel filed a Motion for an Accounting, and for Clarification that the Master's Role Has Concluded (ECF No. 302).

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decide is the propriety of a fee division that occurred between Customer Class Counsel² and Chargois & Herron, the Texas law firm that facilitated Labaton's introduction to Arkansas Teacher Retirement System ("ATRS"). Although a fee division with an attorney who does not work on a matter is permissible under Massachusetts law, the Master is highly critical of the feesharing here, and goes to great lengths to find (among other things) that Labaton was required to, but did not, disclose this fee division to the Court or the class. *See* Special Master's Report and Recommendations, at 246-326 (ECF No. 357). Labaton strongly contests all of these findings and conclusions.

Labaton believes that a reasonable person might conclude that an impartial, *de novo* review by this Court relating to this and other issues stemming from the Master's Report is not possible. One main source of Labaton's concern involves the May 30, 2018 hearing before the Court (the "May 30 Hearing") and its aftermath. At the May 30 Hearing, particularly during the Court's examination under oath of ATRS' Executive Director, the Court strongly suggested to the attorneys and others present in the courtroom that the Master's Report includes factual findings and conclusions of law involving public corruption in connection with ATRS. Such suggestions do not find support in the Master's Report or the record of the Master's proceedings. Following the May 30 Hearing, based upon this line of questions and for several other reasons, Labaton filed a motion asking the Court to consider whether it should recuse itself pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 455(a). *See* Memorandum of Law in Support of Labaton Sucharow LLP's Motion Concerning Issues Raised at May 30 Hearing, at 2-3 (ECF No. 276). On June 21, 2018, the Court denied Labaton's recusal motion and stated that the reasons for the decision would be explained in a forthcoming Memorandum and Order. Order (ECF No. 315).

² Labaton, the Thornton Law Firm, and Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP.

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The Court filed its Memorandum and Order setting forth its reasoning on June 28, 2018 ("Recusal Opinion") (ECF No. 358). The latter document greatly exacerbated Labaton's concerns, as it stated the Court's bases for the public corruption questions and comments at the May 30 Hearing: First, the Court admitted to one or more *ex parte* communications with the Master relating to a previously undisclosed conversation between the Master and an Assistant United States Attorney in January of 2018. The latter conversation concerned an unrelated investigation of the Thornton Law Firm, in which neither Labaton nor ATRS was involved. The Court nonetheless acknowledged speculating with the Master, with no apparent basis, that the "prosecutors' investigation suggested questions about whether any of the money paid to [] Chargois had been used to make political contributions or other payments, and the potential for the criminal investigation to expand to include Chargois." Recusal Opinion, at 39. Second, the Court acknowledged that the May 30 questions and comments related to an unsubstantiated newspaper article in January of 2017 relating to Labaton's political contributions in Massachusetts.

On Friday, July 6, 2018, Labaton filed the Mandamus Petition with the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, asking the appellate court to order recusal on the ground that a reasonable person might question the Court's impartiality. The Mandamus Petition raises three main issues as the basis for the relief Labaton seeks: (a) that a reasonable person might question the Court's impartiality based upon the Court's *ex parte* communications with the Master (a number of which were revealed for the first time in the Recusal Opinion) and reliance upon media reports that did not relate to ATRS or this litigation (Mandamus Petition, at 20-24); (b) that a reasonable person might question the Court's ability to decide impartially who was responsible for determining or disclosing the existence of any fee division from Customer Class

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Counsels' fee award (*id.* at 24-26); and (c) that a reasonable person might question the Court's ability to decide impartially whether the Master's Compensation has been excessive (*id.* at 26-27). The Mandamus Petition is pending.

Argument

Labaton respectfully requests that the Court stay any further action pending the outcome of the Mandamus Petition and a decision by the First Circuit regarding whether recusal is warranted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 455(a). This Court's authority to stay proceedings in the interest of "economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants" is well established. *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936). "How this can best be done calls for the exercise of judgment, which must weigh competing interests and maintain an even balance." *Id.* at 245-55. Labaton respectfully suggests that the weighing of competing interests strongly favors a temporary, partial stay of substantive decisions here, until the First Circuit decides whether this Court, or a different judge, will preside over the remaining phases of this case.

The principle is well established that, "[a]s a general rule, a trial judge who has recused himself 'should take no other action in the case except the necessary ministerial acts to have the case transferred to another judge." *El Fenix de P.R. v. The M/Y Johanny*, 36 F.3d 136, 141-42 (1st Cir. 1994) (quoting 13A Wright & Miller, *Federal Practice & Procedure* § 3550 (2d ed. 1984)); *see also United States v. O'Keefe*, 128 F.3d 885, 891 (5th Cir. 1997) ("Once a judge recuses himself from a case, the judge may take no action other than the ministerial acts necessary to transfer the case to another judge"). Likewise, it follows that if the appellate court were to decide that a reasonable person could question the Court's impartiality, the Court should make no further decisions affecting the parties' rights.

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Although the Court of Appeals has not yet ruled on the Mandamus Petition, this Court should enter a partial stay now. "The very purpose of § 455(a) is to promote confidence in the judiciary by avoiding even the appearance of impropriety whenever possible." *Lilieberg v.* Health Servs. Acquisition Corp., 486 U.S. 847, 865 (1988). Section 455(a) "safeguards not only the litigants' constitutional entitlement to an unbiased adjudication, but the public's perception of the integrity of the judicial process." El Fenix de P.R., 36 F.3d at 142 n.7 (internal citation omitted). Because Labaton has raised a serious question as to the Court's impartiality, the Court should defer further action in this case until the First Circuit has evaluated Labaton's petition and decided whether a writ should issue. Indeed, this Court has recognized the prudence of a stay of proceedings during the pendency of such a petition in the past. See United States v. Salemme, 164 F. Supp. 2d 86, 112-13 (D. Mass. 1998) (Wolf, J.) (declining to self-recuse, but providing that "if an authorized representative of the government requests a stay and expresses an intention to file promptly with the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit a petition for a writ of mandamus seeking to compel my recusal, I will stay this case in order to provide the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit whatever time it needs to act on that petition").

Denial of a stay could also lead to inefficiency and waste. If the Court of Appeals grants Labaton's Mandamus Petition, substantive decisions that post-date Labaton's recusal motion would likely need to be vacated. *See N.Y. City Housing Dep't Corp. v. Hart*, 796 F.2d 976, 979 (7th Cir. 1996) ("order[s] rendered after the filing of the [§ 455(a) recusal] motion must be vacated – by the district judge or by writ of mandamus – if the motion ultimately is granted"); *Moody v. Simmons*, 858 F.2d 137, 144 (3d Cir. 1988) ("Because the judge should have recused after finding that his impartiality could reasonably be questioned, we will grant the writ of mandamus to vacate all orders (including opinions) entered by the judge after [the hearing on

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recusal]."). Respectfully, it would not benefit any party or person to have this Court render substantive decisions only to have them subject to being vacated and treated as if they were never issued. The preferable path is to defer substantive decisions temporarily, until the Mandamus Petition is decided, thereby avoiding the inefficiency and the possible issuance of orders that the Court of Appeals determines should not have been decided by this Court.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, Labaton respectfully requests that the Court stay any further substantive decisions in this matter, pending the outcome of Labaton's Mandamus Petition in the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 13, 2018

By: /s/ Joan A. Lukey

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Counsel for Labaton Sucharow LLP

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<u>/s/ Joan A. Lukey</u> Joan A. Lukey