

EXHIBIT 9

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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**STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT OF SETTLEMENT WITH
HSBC HOLDINGS PLC, HSBC BANK PLC, HSBC NORTH AMERICA HOLDINGS
INC., HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AND HSBC SECURITIES (USA) INC.**

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1. RECITALS

This Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement (“Settlement Agreement”) is made and entered into on September 30, 2015 (“Execution Date”), between Class Plaintiffs (as defined herein), for themselves individually and on behalf of each Class Member in the Action (as defined herein), and defendants HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. (collectively, “HSBC”), by and through Class Lead Counsel and HSBC’s Counsel. This Settlement Agreement is intended by the Parties to fully, finally, and forever resolve, discharge, and settle the Released Claims, upon and subject to the terms and conditions hereof.

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2014, certain of the Direct Class Plaintiffs filed the Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint and Class Plaintiffs filed a Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint (“SAC”) on July 16, 2015;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs are prosecuting the Action on their own behalf and on behalf of the Class against Defendants, including HSBC;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs have alleged, among other things, that HSBC participated in an unlawful conspiracy to restrain trade, pursuant to which HSBC and its alleged co-conspirators, including the other Defendants, as well as unnamed co-conspirators, agreed, among other things, to fix prices in the foreign exchange (“FX”) market in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq.* and the Commodity Exchange Act, 7 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs have contended that they and the Classes are entitled to actual damages, treble damages, and injunctive relief for loss or damage, and threatened loss or damage, as a result of violations of the laws as alleged in the SAC, arising from HSBC’s (and the other Defendants’) alleged conduct;

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WHEREAS, HSBC has denied and continues to deny each and all of the claims and allegations of wrongdoing made by Class Plaintiffs in the Action and all charges of wrongdoing or liability against it arising out of any of the conduct, statements, acts, or omissions alleged, or that could have been alleged, in the Action;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs, for themselves individually and on behalf of each Class Member, and HSBC agree that neither this Settlement Agreement nor any statement made in negotiation thereof shall be deemed or construed to be an admission or evidence of any violation of any statute or law or of any liability or wrongdoing by HSBC or of the truth of any of the claims or allegations alleged in the Action;

WHEREAS, certain governmental entities have made findings in connection with FX Trading and have assessed penalties or fines in connection with FX Trading and nothing herein modifies or affects those findings;

WHEREAS, Class Lead Counsel have concluded, after due investigation and after carefully considering the relevant circumstances, including, without limitation, the claims asserted in the Action, the legal and factual defenses thereto, and the applicable law, that: (1) it is in the best interests of the Classes to enter into this Settlement Agreement in order to avoid the uncertainties of litigation and to assure that the benefits reflected herein, including the value of the Direct Settlement Amount and the Exchange-Only Settlement Amount to be paid by HSBC under this Settlement Agreement and the cooperation to be provided to Class Plaintiffs by HSBC under this Settlement Agreement, are obtained for the Classes; and (2) the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the Classes;

WHEREAS, HSBC, while continuing to deny that it is liable for the claims asserted against it in the Action, has nevertheless agreed to enter into this Settlement Agreement to avoid the

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further risk, expense, inconvenience, and distraction of burdensome and protracted litigation, and thereby to put fully to rest this controversy, to avoid the risks inherent in complex litigation, and to obtain complete dismissal of the SAC as to HSBC and a release of claims as set forth herein;

WHEREAS, this Settlement Agreement is the product of arm's-length negotiations between Class Lead Counsel and HSBC's Counsel under the guidance and oversight of Mediator Kenneth Feinberg, and this Settlement Agreement embodies all of the terms and conditions of the settlement agreed upon between HSBC and Class Plaintiffs, both for themselves individually and on behalf of the Classes;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, terms, and releases in this Settlement Agreement, it is agreed, by and among Class Plaintiffs (for themselves individually and on behalf of the Classes and each member thereof) and HSBC, by and through Class Lead Counsel and HSBC's Counsel, that, subject to the approval of the Court, the Action be settled, compromised, and dismissed with prejudice as to HSBC and the other Released Parties only, without costs, except as stated herein, and releases be extended, as set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Settlement Agreement, the following capitalized terms have the meanings specified below:

(a) "Action" means *In re Foreign Exchange Benchmark Rates Antitrust Litigation*, 13 Civ. 7789, which is currently pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and includes all actions filed in or transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and consolidated thereunder and all actions that may be so transferred and consolidated in the future, including: *Taylor v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 1350), *Sterk v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 2705), *Bakizada v. Bank of America*

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Corp. et al. (15 Civ. 4230), *Teel v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4436), and *Robert Charles Class A, L.P. v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4926).

(b) “Alternative Judgment” means a Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal entered by the Court but in a form other than proposed by Class Lead Counsel and HSBC.

(c) “Authorized Claimant” means any Class Member who will be entitled to a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund pursuant to the Plan of Distribution approved by the Court in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

(d) “Claims Administrator” means the third party to be retained by Class Lead Counsel and approved by the Court to manage and administer the process by which each member of a Class is notified of and paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

(e) “Classes” and “Class” mean, collectively, the “Direct Settlement Class” and the “Exchange-Only Settlement Class” as defined in paragraph 3(a).

(f) “Class Distribution Order” has the meaning given to it in paragraph 11(h).

(g) “Class Lead Counsel” means Scott+Scott, Attorneys at Law, LLP and Hausfeld LLP.

(h) “Class Member” means a Person who is a member of one of the Classes and has not timely and validly excluded himself, herself, or itself in accordance with the procedures established by the Court.

(i) “Class Notice” means, collectively, the Mail Notice and Publication Notice, which shall be subject to consultation and agreement with the Settling Defendants before being submitted to the Court for approval.

(j) “Class Plaintiffs” means Direct Class Plaintiffs and Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs.

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(k) “Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint” means the Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint filed in the Action on March 31, 2014.

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

(m) “Defendants” means HSBC; Bank of America Corporation, Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.; The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd.; Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Capital Inc.; BNP Paribas Group, BNP Paribas North America Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., and BNP Prime Brokerage, Inc.; Citigroup Inc., Citibank, N.A., Citicorp, and Citigroup Global Markets Inc.; Credit Suisse Group AG, Credit Suisse AG, and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC; Deutsche Bank AG and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.; The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co.; JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Morgan Stanley, Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC, and Morgan Stanley & Co. International plc; RBC Capital Markets, LLC; The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, and RBS Securities, Inc.; Société Générale S.A.; Standard Chartered plc; and UBS AG, UBS Group AG, and UBS Securities LLC; and any other Person or Persons who are named as defendants in the Action at any time up to and including the date a Preliminary Approval Order is entered.

(n) “Direct Class Plaintiffs” means Aureus Currency Fund, L.P.; the City of Philadelphia, Board of Pensions and Retirement; Employees’ Retirement System of the Government of the Virgin Islands; Employees’ Retirement System of Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority; Fresno County Employees’ Retirement Association; Haverhill Retirement System; Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; State-Boston Retirement System; Syena Global Emerging Markets Fund, LP; Systrax Corporation; Tiberius OC Fund, Ltd.; United Food

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and Commercial Workers Union and Participating Food Industry Employers Tri-State Pension Fund; and Value Recovery Fund L.L.C.

- (o) “Direct Settlement Amount” means \$279,000,000.
- (p) “Effective Date” or “Effective Date of Settlement” has the meaning given to it in paragraph 6(a).
- (q) “Escrow Agent” means Huntington National Bank.
- (r) “Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs” means J. Paul Antonello, Marc G. Federighi, Thomas Gramatis, Doug Harvey, Izee Trading Company, John Kerstein, Michael Melissinos, Mark Miller, Robert Miller, Richard Preschern d/b/a Preschern Trading, Peter Rives, Michael J. Smith, Jeffrey Sterk, and Kimberly Sterk.
- (s) “Exchange-Only Settlement Amount” means \$6,000,000.
- (t) “Execution Date” means the date of the execution of this Settlement Agreement by counsel for all Parties thereto.
- (u) “Fairness Hearing” means the hearing to be held by the Court to determine whether the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement shall receive final approval pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.
- (v) “Fee and Expense Application” has the meaning given to it in paragraph 9(a).
- (w) “Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal” means the order of the Court, substantially in the form of Exhibit C attached hereto, finally approving the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement and dismissing the claims of Class Plaintiffs and Class Members against HSBC. The Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal shall become final when: (i) no appeal has been filed and the prescribed time for commencing any appeal has expired; or (ii) an appeal has been filed and either (1) the appeal has been dismissed and the prescribed time, if any, for

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commencing any further appeal has expired, or (2) the order has been affirmed in its entirety and the prescribed time, if any, for commencing any further appeal has expired. For purposes of this paragraph, an appeal includes appeals as of right, discretionary appeals, interlocutory appeals, proceedings involving writs of certiorari or mandamus, and any other proceedings of like kind.

(x) “FX Benchmark Rates” means (i) the WM/Reuters fixing rates, including the 4:00 p.m. London closing spot rate; (ii) the European Central Bank FX reference rates, including the ECB rate set at 1:15 p.m. London time; (iii) the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (“CME”) daily settlement rates, including the rate set at 2:00 p.m. Central Time; and (iv) any other FX benchmark, fixing or reference rate.

(y) “FX Exchange-Traded Instruments” means any and all FX Instruments that were listed for trading through an exchange, including, but not limited to, FX futures contracts and options on FX futures contracts.

(z) “FX Instruments” means FX spot transactions, forwards, swaps, futures, options, and any other FX instrument or FX transaction the trading or settlement value of which is related in any way to FX rates.

(aa) “FX Trading” means the trading of FX Instruments and FX Exchange-Traded Instruments, regardless of the manner in which such trading occurs or is undertaken, or a decision to withhold bids and offers with respect to FX Instruments or FX Exchange-Traded Instruments.

(bb) “HSBC” means HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.

(cc) “HSBC’s Counsel” means Locke Lord LLP.

(dd) “Investment Vehicles” means any investment company or pooled investment fund, including, but not limited to, mutual fund families, exchange-traded funds, fund of funds and

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hedge funds, in which a Defendant has or may have a direct or indirect interest, or as to which its affiliates may act as an investment advisor, but of which a Defendant or its respective affiliates is not a majority owner or does not hold a majority beneficial interest.

(ee) “Mail Notice” means the Notice of Proposed Settlements of Class Action to be provided to the Classes as provided in this Settlement Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, and the Notice Order.

(ff) “Mediator” means Kenneth Feinberg or, if he is unable or unwilling to serve in that capacity, an alternate jointly selected in good faith by Class Lead Counsel and HSBC’s Counsel.

(gg) “Net Settlement Fund” has the meaning given to it in paragraph 10(f).

(hh) “Notice Order” or “Order Approving the Plan of Distribution and Form and Manner of Notice of Settlement Agreements” means an order of the Court, substantially in the form of Exhibit B attached hereto, that approves the form of Class Notice and preliminarily approves the proposed Plan of Distribution.

(ii) “Parties” means HSBC and Class Plaintiffs.

(jj) “Person” means an individual or entity, and his, her, or its spouses, heirs, predecessors, successors, representatives, or assignees.

(kk) “Plan of Distribution” means a plan or formula of allocation of the Net Settlement Fund whereby the Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Authorized Claimants after payment of expenses of notice and administration of the settlement, Taxes and tax expenses, and such attorneys’ fees, costs, expenses, interest, and other expenses as may be awarded by the Court. At a time and in a manner determined by the Court, Class Lead Counsel shall submit for Court approval a Plan of Distribution for each of the Classes that will provide for the distribution of the applicable

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Net Settlement Fund. Each Plan of Distribution shall be devised and implemented with the assistance of the Settlement Administrator.

(ll) “Preliminary Approval Order” means an order of the Court, substantially in the form of Exhibit A attached hereto, that preliminarily approves the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

(mm) “Publication Notice” means the summary notice of proposed settlements and hearing for publication.

(nn) “Released Claims” means any and all manner of claims, including “Unknown Claims” as defined below, causes of action, cross-claims, counter-claims, charges, liabilities, demands, judgments, suits, obligations, debts, setoffs, rights of recovery, or liabilities for any obligations of any kind whatsoever (however denominated), whether class or individual, in law or equity or arising under constitution, statute, regulation, ordinance, contract, or otherwise in nature, for fees, costs, penalties, fines, debts, expenses, attorneys’ fees, and damages, whenever incurred, and liabilities of any nature whatsoever (including joint and several), known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, asserted or unasserted, arising from or relating in any way to any conduct alleged or that could have been alleged in and arising from the factual predicate of the Action, or any amended complaint or pleading therein, from the beginning of time until the Effective Date, which shall be deemed to include but not be limited to: (i) communications related to FX Instruments, FX Trading, or FX Benchmark Rates, between a Released Party and any other FX dealer or any other participant in the conspiracy alleged in the Action through chat rooms, instant messages, email, or other means; (ii) agreements, arrangements, or understandings related to FX Instruments, FX Trading, or FX Benchmark Rates, between a Released Party and any other FX dealer or any other participant in the conspiracy alleged in the Action through chat rooms,

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instant messages, email, or other means; (iii) the sharing or exchange of customer information between a Released Party and any other FX dealer or any other participant in the conspiracy alleged in the Action—including but not limited to customer identity, trading patterns, transactions, net positions or orders, stop losses or barrier options, pricing, or spreads related to FX Instruments, FX Trading, or FX Benchmark Rates; (iv) the establishment, calculation, manipulation, or use of the WM/Reuters fixing rates, including the 4:00 p.m. London closing spot rates, and trading that may impact such rates; (v) the establishment, calculation, manipulation, or use of the European Central Bank FX reference rates, including the ECB rate set at 1:15 p.m. London time; (vi) the establishment, calculation, manipulation, or use of the CME daily settlement rates; (vii) the establishment, calculation, or use of any other FX benchmarks, including benchmark fixing rates, benchmark settlement rates, or benchmark reference rates; (viii) the establishment, calculation, communication, manipulation, or use of the price, spread, or rate of any FX Instrument or FX Exchange-Based Instrument; and (ix) the exchange of customer information or confidential information in the possession of HSBC between a Released Party and any other FX dealer or any other participant in the conspiracy alleged in the Action related to the establishment, calculation, manipulation, or use of any FX price, spread, or rate. Provided, however, Released Claims do not include: (i) “last look” claims related to possible delays built into HSBC’s algorithmic or electronic trading platforms that resulted in HSBC declining spot orders or requests to trade, including trading on electronic communications networks, that were submitted based upon prices HSBC quoted or displayed in over-the-counter FX markets, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein; and (ii) claims based upon transactions executed solely outside the United States and arising under foreign laws belonging to any Releasing Party or Person that is domiciled outside the United States.

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(oo) “Released Party” or “Released Parties” means HSBC and each of their past, present, and future, direct and indirect parents (including holding companies), subsidiaries, affiliates, associates (all as defined in SEC Rule 12b-2 promulgated pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), divisions, predecessors, successors, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, attorneys, legal or other representatives, trustees, heirs, executors, administrators, advisors, and assigns. Released Parties do not include: (i) any of the other Defendants; or (ii) any other Person formerly named in the Action.

(pp) “Releasing Parties” means individually and collectively Class Plaintiffs and each Class Member, on behalf of themselves and any of their respective past, present or future officers, directors, stockholders, agents, employees, legal or other representatives, partners, associates, trustees, parents, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, heirs, executors, administrators, purchasers, predecessors, successors, and assigns, whether or not they object to the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement, and whether or not they make a claim for payment from the Net Settlement Fund.

(qq) “SAC” means the Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint.

(rr) “Settlement Administrator” means Kenneth Feinberg.

(ss) “Settlement Agreement” means this Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement, together with any exhibits attached thereto, which are incorporated herein by reference.

(tt) “Settlement Fund” means the escrow account established pursuant to paragraph 10(a) of this Settlement Agreement, including all monies held therein in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

(uu) “Settling Defendants” (and each a “Settling Defendant”) means HSBC; Bank of America Corporation, Bank of America, N.A., and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.;

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Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Capital Inc.; BNP Paribas Group, BNP Paribas North America Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., and BNP Prime Brokerage, Inc.; Citigroup Inc., Citibank, N.A., Citicorp, and Citigroup Global Markets Inc.; The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co.; JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, and RBS Securities Inc.; and UBS AG, UBS Group AG, and UBS Securities LLC.

(vv) “Settling Defendants’ Claims” means claims, including “Unknown Claims” as defined below, that any Released Party may have against a Releasing Party or Class Lead Counsel relating to the institution, prosecution, or settlement of the Action, except for claims to enforce any of the terms of this Settlement Agreement but for the avoidance of doubt does not include any other claim relating to or arising out of FX trading, such as a claim to complete the settlement of an FX trade.

(ww) “Taxes” has the meaning given to it in paragraph 12.

(xx) “Total Settlement Amount” means Direct Settlement Amount plus Exchange-Only Settlement Amount.

(yy) “Unknown Claims” means any and all Released Claims against the Released Parties which Releasing Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor as of the Effective Date, and any Settling Defendants’ Claims against Releasing Parties which Released Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor as of the Effective Date, which if known by the Releasing Parties or Released Parties might have affected his, her, or its decision(s) with respect to the settlement. With respect to any and all Released Claims and Settling Defendants’ Claims, the Parties stipulate and agree that by operation of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal, upon the Effective Date, Releasing Parties and Released Parties shall have

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expressly waived, and each Class Member shall be deemed to have waived, and by operation of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal shall have expressly waived, the provisions, rights and benefits of 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 OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

and 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.

The Releasing Parties and Released Parties may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which he, she, or it now knows or believes to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims and Settling Defendants' Claims. Nevertheless, Class Plaintiffs and the Released Parties shall expressly, fully, finally, and forever settle and release, and each Class Member, upon the Effective Date, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal shall have, fully, finally, and forever settled and released, any and all Released Claims and Settling Defendants' Claims, whether or not concealed or hidden, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts. Class Plaintiffs and the Released Parties acknowledge, and Class Members shall be deemed to have acknowledged, that the inclusion of "Unknown Claims" in the definition of Released Claims and Settling Defendants' Claims was separately bargained for and was a key element of the Settlement Agreement.

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3. SETTLEMENT CLASS CERTIFICATION

(a) The Parties hereby stipulate solely for settlement purposes that the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) are satisfied, and, subject to Court approval, the following settlement classes shall be certified as to HSBC:

(i) **The Direct Settlement Class:** All Persons who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into an FX Instrument directly with a Defendant, a direct or indirect parent, subsidiary, or division of a Defendant, a Released Party, or co-conspirator where such Persons were either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, transacted FX Instruments in the United States or its territories. Specifically excluded from the Direct Settlement Class are Defendants; Released Parties; co-conspirators; the officers, directors, or employees of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator; any entity in which any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator has a controlling interest; any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator and any person acting on their behalf; provided, however, that Investment Vehicles shall not be excluded from the definition of the Direct Settlement Class. Also excluded from the Direct Settlement Class are any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action.

(ii) **The Exchange-Only Settlement Class:** All Persons who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into FX Exchange-Traded Instruments where such Persons were either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, entered into FX Exchange-Traded Instruments on a U.S. exchange. Specifically excluded from the Exchange-Only Settlement Class are Defendants; Released Parties; co-conspirators; the

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officers, directors, or employees of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator; any entity in which any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator has a controlling interest; any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator and any person acting on their behalf; provided, however, that Investment Vehicles shall not be excluded from the definition of the Exchange-Only Settlement Class. Also excluded from the Exchange-Only Settlement Class are: (i) any judicial officer presiding over this action and any member of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action; and (ii) any Person who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into an FX Instrument directly with a Defendant, a direct or indirect parent, subsidiary, or division of a Defendant, a Released Party, or co-conspirator, where such Person was either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, transacted FX Instruments in the United States or its territories.

(b) The Parties' agreement as to certification of the Classes is solely for purposes of effectuating a settlement and for no other purpose. HSBC retains all of its objections, arguments, and defenses with respect to class certification, and reserves all rights to contest class certification, if the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement does not receive the Court's final approval, if the Court's approval is reversed or vacated on appeal, if this Settlement Agreement is terminated as provided herein, or if the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement otherwise fails to close. The Parties acknowledge that there has been no stipulation to any classes or certification of any classes for any purpose other than effectuating the settlement, and that if the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement does not receive the Court's final approval, if the Court's approval is reversed or vacated on appeal, if this Settlement Agreement is terminated as provided

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herein, or if the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement otherwise fails to close, this agreement as to certification of the settlement classes becomes null and void *ab initio*, and this Settlement Agreement or any other settlement-related statement may not be cited regarding certification of the settlement class, or in support of an argument for certifying a class for any purpose related to this proceeding.

4. GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO EFFECTUATE THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Parties agree to cooperate with one another in good faith to effectuate and implement the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement and to exercise their reasonable best efforts to accomplish the terms of this Settlement Agreement. This includes HSBC serving notice on those entities required to receive notice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1715.

5. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER, NOTICE, AND FAIRNESS HEARING

(a) Within the later of (X) sixty (60) days following the Execution Date or (Y) thirty (30) days after the receipt of the data required by paragraph 14(b)(iii), or such later date agreed to by the Parties, Class Lead Counsel shall submit to the Court, and HSBC shall support, a motion requesting entry of the Preliminary Approval Order. That motion shall:

- (i) seek certification of the Classes solely for settlement purposes, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3);
- (ii) request preliminary approval of the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement as fair, reasonable, and adequate within the meaning of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23;
- (iii) seek the appointment of Direct Class Plaintiffs as Class representatives of the Direct Settlement Class and Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs as Class

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representatives of the Exchange-Only Settlement Class, and Class Lead Counsel as interim Class counsel under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g);

- (iv) explain that Class Plaintiffs will submit a separate application, seeking approval of the form, and method of dissemination, of: (1) the Mail Notice, which shall be mailed along with a proof of claim and release form via first-class mail; and (2) the Publication Notice, which the parties intend to be the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and which shall, at a minimum, be published once in *The Wall Street Journal*, once in *Investor's Business Daily*, once in *FX Week*, once in the national edition of the *Financial Times*, once in the *International New York Times*, once in *The Guardian* (U.K. edition), and once over *PR Newswire*. With the object of reducing the costs of Class Notice, Class Lead Counsel shall use their reasonable best efforts to coordinate the provision of Class Notice pertaining to this Settlement Agreement with the provision of notice for any other settlements that may be reached in the Action as of the time of Preliminary Approval. The Claims Administrator will also establish and maintain a dedicated settlement website, from which each member of the Classes can view and download relevant documents, including the Mail Notice, the Publication Notice, and the proof of claim and release form;
- (v) seek appointment of Garden City Group as the Claims Administrator and Kenneth Feinberg as the Settlement Administrator;
- (vi) seek appointment of Huntington National Bank as Escrow Agent;

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(vii) stay all proceedings in the Action against HSBC until the Court renders a final decision on approval of the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement; and

(viii) attach a proposed form of order, which includes such provisions as are typical in such orders, including: (1) setting a date for the Fairness Hearing, and (2) a provision that, if final approval of the settlement is not obtained, the settlement is null and void, and the Parties will revert to their positions *ex ante* without prejudice to their rights, claims, or defenses.

(b) Class Notice shall apprise each member of a Class of his, her or its right to exclude themselves from, or object to, the settlement.

(c) HSBC shall, at its own expense and as reasonably available to HSBC and permissible by law, supply to Class Lead Counsel in electronic format, or other such form as may be reasonably requested by Class Lead Counsel, the Settlement Administrator, and/or the Claims Administrator the names and addresses of all clients, who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into FX Instruments and FX Exchange-Traded Instruments and who can be reasonably identified based on client records that HSBC has in its possession, custody, or control. Any information provided pursuant to this provision shall be covered by the protective order in effect in the Action, or, if no protective order is in effect, shall nevertheless be maintained as confidential. Moreover, any information provided pursuant to this provision shall be used solely for purposes of providing notice and administering and verifying claims, as set forth in paragraphs 5, 11, and 13(b), and any distribution of such information shall be limited to what is necessary for those purposes. If the Parties are unable to agree on the scope of the client-identifying data to be produced, the issue shall be submitted to the Mediator for

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resolution. Mail Notice shall be mailed to those Persons that are identified by HSBC. Publication Notice to other members of a Class shall be by publication as set forth above, if approved by the Court.

(d) Any Person falling within the definition of the Classes may request to be excluded from the Classes (“Request for Exclusion”). A Request for Exclusion must be: (i) in writing, (ii) signed by the Person or his, her, or its authorized representative, (iii) state the name, address, and phone number of that Person, and (iv) include: (1) proof of membership in either the Direct Settlement Class or the Exchange-Only Settlement Class, including documentation evidencing FX Trading during the Class Period; and (2) a signed statement that “I/we hereby request that I/we be excluded from the Settlement Classes in the *In re Foreign Exchange Benchmark Rates Antitrust Litigation*.” The request must be mailed to the Claims Administrator at the address provided in the Mail Notice and be postmarked no later than fifty (50) days prior to the date set for the Fairness Hearing or any other date set by the Court. Unless the Court orders otherwise, a Request for Exclusion that does not include all of the foregoing information, that does not contain the proper signature, that is sent to an address other than the one designated in the Class Notice, or that is not sent within the time specified, shall be invalid, and the Person(s) filing such an invalid request shall be a Class Member and shall be bound by the settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement, if approved. All Persons who submit valid and timely Requests for Exclusion in the manner set forth in this paragraph shall be excluded from the Classes, shall have no rights under the Settlement Agreement, shall not share in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, and shall not be bound by the Settlement Agreement. Class Lead Counsel shall cause to be provided to HSBC’s Counsel copies of all Requests for Exclusion, together with all documents and

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information provided with such Requests, and any written revocation of Requests for Exclusion, within three (3) business days of receipt by Class Lead Counsel of that exclusion request.

(e) Any Person who has not requested exclusion from one of the Classes and who objects to the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement may appear in person or through counsel, at that Person's own expense, at the Fairness Hearing to present any evidence or argument that the Court deems proper and relevant. However, no such Person shall be heard, and no papers, briefs, pleadings, or other documents submitted by any such Person shall be received and considered by the Court, unless such Person properly submits a written objection that includes: (i) a notice of intention to appear; (ii) proof of membership in either the Direct Settlement Class or the Exchange-Only Settlement Class, including documentation evidencing FX Trading during the Class Period; and (iii) the specific grounds for the objection and any reasons why such Person desires to appear and be heard, as well as all documents or writings that such Person desires the Court to consider. Such a written objection must be both filed with the Court no later than fifty (50) days prior to the date set for the Fairness Hearing and mailed to Class Lead Counsel and HSBC's Counsel at the addresses provided in the Class Notice and postmarked no later than fifty (50) days prior to the date set for the Fairness Hearing. Any Person that fails to object in the manner prescribed herein shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its objections and will forever be barred from making any such objections in the Action, unless otherwise excused for good cause shown, as determined by the Court.

(f) If the Preliminary Approval Order and the Notice Order are entered by the Court, Class Plaintiffs shall seek, and HSBC shall support, entry of a Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal, substantially in the form of Exhibit C attached hereto, that:

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(i) certifies the Classes pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) solely for the purpose of the settlement;

(ii) approves finally the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement and its terms as being a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement as to Class Members within the meaning of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and directing its consummation according to its terms;

(iii) finds that the Class Notice constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice of the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement and the Fairness Hearing and meets the requirements of due process and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

(iv) directs that, as to the Released Parties, the Action shall be dismissed with prejudice and, except as provided for in this Settlement Agreement, without costs. Such dismissal shall not affect, in any way, the right of Class Plaintiffs or Class Members to pursue claims, if any, outside the scope of the Released Claims;

(v) orders that the Releasing Parties are permanently enjoined and barred from instituting, commencing, or prosecuting any action or other proceeding asserting any Released Claims against any Released Party;

(vi) retains with the Court exclusive jurisdiction over the settlement and this Settlement Agreement, including the administration and consummation of the settlement; and

(vii) determines under Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(b) that there is no just reason for delay and directs that the judgment of dismissal as to HSBC shall be final and entered forthwith.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SETTLEMENT

(a) The Effective Date of Settlement shall be the date when all of the following events shall have occurred and shall be conditioned on the occurrence of all of the following events:

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- (i) the contribution to the Settlement Fund has been made pursuant to this Settlement Agreement;
- (ii) entry of the Preliminary Approval Order;
- (iii) entry of the Notice Order;
- (iv) final approval by the Court of the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement, following Class Notice and the Fairness Hearing;
- (v) no Party has exercised his, her, or its rights to terminate this Settlement Agreement pursuant to paragraphs 10(c), 13(a), or 13(b); and
- (vi) entry by the Court of a Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal, and the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal becomes final, or, in the event that the Court enters an Alternative Judgment and neither Class Plaintiffs nor HSBC elects to terminate this Settlement Agreement, such Alternative Judgment becomes final.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision herein, any proceeding or order, or motion for reconsideration, appeal, petition for a writ of certiorari or its equivalent, pertaining solely to any Plan of Distribution and/or Fee and Expense Application, shall not in any way delay or preclude the Effective Date.

7. CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR AND SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

(a) Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, and subject to Court approval, Class Lead Counsel shall engage a qualified claims administrator as the Claims Administrator and Kenneth Feinberg as the Settlement Administrator. Both the Claims Administrator and the Settlement Administrator will assist with the settlement claims process as set forth herein.

(b) The Claims Administrator shall effectuate the notice plan approved by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order and the Notice Order, shall administer and calculate the claims

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submitted by Class Members, and shall oversee distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants in accordance with the Plan of Distribution.

(c) The Settlement Administrator shall assist in the development of the Plan of Distribution and the resolution of any disputes between Class Members and the Claims Administrator pursuant to the Plan of Distribution.

8. SCOPE AND EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT

(a) The obligations incurred pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in full and final disposition of: (i) the Action against HSBC; (ii) any and all Released Claims as against all Released Parties; and (iii) any and all Settling Defendants' Claims as against all Releasing Parties.

(b) Upon the Effective Date of Settlement, each of the Releasing Parties: (i) shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal, shall have fully, finally, and forever waived, released, relinquished, and discharged (1) all Released Claims against the Released Parties, regardless of whether such Releasing Party executes and delivers a proof of claim and release form, and (2) any rights to the protections afforded under California Civil Code § 1542 and/or any other similar, comparable, or equivalent laws; (ii) shall forever be enjoined from prosecuting in any forum any Released Claim against any of the Released Parties; and (iii) agrees and covenants not to sue any of the Released Parties on the basis of any Released Claims or to assist any third party in commencing or maintaining any suit against any Released Party related in any way to any Released Claims.

(c) Upon the Effective Date of Settlement, each of the Released Parties: (i) shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal shall have fully, finally, and forever released and discharged (1) Class Plaintiffs, Class Lead Counsel, and each and all Class Members from each and every one of the Settling Defendants' Claims, and (2) any rights to the protections afforded under California Civil Code § 1542 and/or any other similar,

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comparable, or equivalent laws; (ii) shall forever be enjoined from prosecuting the Settling Defendants' Claims; and (iii) agrees and covenants not to sue on the basis of any Settling Defendants' Claims, or to assist any third party in commencing or maintaining any such suit related to any Settling Defendants' Claims.

(d) The releases provided in this Settlement Agreement shall become effective immediately upon occurrence of the Effective Date of Settlement without the need for any further action, notice, condition, or event.

(e) As an express and material condition of this Settlement Agreement, the Court shall enter an order, in the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal or otherwise, to the extent not prohibited by law, barring claims by any Person against the Released Parties for contribution or indemnification (however denominated) for all or a portion of any amounts paid or awarded in the Action by way of settlement, judgment, or otherwise.

(f) In the event that this Settlement Agreement is terminated pursuant to paragraphs 10(c), 13(a), or 13(b), or any condition for the final approval of this Settlement Agreement is not satisfied, the release and covenant not to sue provisions of the foregoing paragraphs shall be null and void and unenforceable.

9. FEE AND EXPENSE APPLICATION

(a) Class Lead Counsel will submit an application or applications (the "Fee and Expense Application") to the Court for an award from the Settlement Fund of: (i) attorneys' fees not to exceed 33-1/3% of the Settlement Fund; (ii) reimbursement of litigation expenses, plus interest, incurred in connection with the prosecution of the Action; and/or (iii) service awards for Class Plaintiffs in conjunction with their representation of the Class. HSBC will take no position regarding the Fee and Expense Application. Attorneys' fees, expenses, and interest as are awarded by the Court ("Fee and Expense Award") to Class Lead Counsel shall be paid from the Settlement

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Fund to Class Lead Counsel immediately upon entry by the Court of an order awarding such amounts, 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 Class Lead Counsel's joint and several obligation to repay those amounts to the Settlement Fund, plus accrued interest at the same net rate as is earned by the Settlement Fund, if and when, as a result of any appeal and/or further proceedings on remand, or successful collateral attack, the Fee and Expense Award is reduced or reversed, or return of the Settlement Fund is required consistent with the provisions of paragraph 13 hereof. In such event, Class Lead Counsel shall, within ten (10) business days from the event which requires repayment of the Fee and Expense Award, refund to the Settlement Fund the Fee and Expense Award paid to them, along with interest.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement to the contrary, the Fee and Expense Application shall be considered by the Court separate and apart from its consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the settlement, and any order or proceeding relating to the Fee and Expense Application, or any appeal of any order relating thereto or reversal or modification thereof, shall not operate to terminate or cancel this Settlement Agreement or the settlement of the Action, or affect the finality or binding nature of any of the releases granted hereunder. The Released Parties shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with respect to, any payment of attorneys' fees or expenses to Class Lead Counsel.

10. THE SETTLEMENT FUND

(a) The Settlement Fund shall be established as an escrow account at Huntington National Bank and administered by the Escrow Agent, subject to approval by the Court. The Settlement Fund shall be administered pursuant to this Settlement Agreement and subject to the Court's continuing supervision and control. No monies shall be paid from the Settlement Fund without the specific authorization of Class Lead Counsel. Counsel for the Parties agree to

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cooperate, in good faith, to form an appropriate escrow agreement in conformance with this Settlement Agreement.

(b) HSBC shall cause the payment of \$285,000,000 to be transferred to the Escrow Agent within ten (10) business days following entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, provided that within five (5) days following entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Class Lead Counsel shall provide HSBC with such information as HSBC may require to complete the wire transfer. These funds, together with any interest earned thereon, shall constitute the Settlement Fund. Class Lead Counsel may pay from the Settlement Fund, without further approval from HSBC or the Court, the costs and expenses reasonably and actually incurred up to the sum of \$500,000 in connection with providing Class Notice and the administration of the settlement, including, without limitation, locating members of the Class, soliciting Class Members' claims, assisting with the filing of claims, administering and distributing the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants, and processing proof of claim and release forms. All costs and expenses incurred in connection with providing Class Notice and the administration of the settlement in excess of \$500,000 shall be paid from the Settlement Fund, subject to approval from the Court.

(c) Without prejudice to the Class Plaintiffs' right to seek enforcement of this Settlement Agreement, if the Total Settlement Amount is not timely transferred to the escrow account, Class Lead Counsel may terminate this Settlement Agreement if: (i) Class Lead Counsel has notified HSBC's Counsel in writing of Class Lead Counsel's intention to terminate this Settlement Agreement; and (ii) the entire Total Settlement Amount is not transferred to the Settlement Fund within ten (10) business days after Class Lead Counsel has provided such written notice.

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(d) The Settlement Fund shall be invested exclusively in accounts backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government or fully insured by the United States Government or an agency thereof, including a U.S. Treasury Fund or a bank account that is either: (a) fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”); or (b) secured by instruments backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. The proceeds of these accounts shall be reinvested in similar instruments at their then-current market rates as they mature. All risks related to the investment of the Settlement Fund in accordance with the investment guidelines set forth in this paragraph shall be borne by the Settlement Fund.

(e) All funds held by the Escrow Agent shall be deemed and considered to be in *custodia legis* of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as such funds shall be distributed pursuant to this Settlement Agreement and the Plan of Distribution approved by the Court.

(f) The Settlement Fund shall be applied as follows:

(i) to pay the Fee and Expense Award, if and to the extent allowed by the Court;

(ii) to pay all the costs and expenses reasonably and actually incurred in connection with providing Class Notice and the administration of the settlement, including, without limitation, locating members of the Class, soliciting Class Members’ claims, assisting with the filing of claims, administering and distributing the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants, and processing proof of claim and release forms;

(iii) to pay the Taxes and tax expenses described in paragraph 12 hereof;

(iv) to pay any other Court approved fees and expenses; and

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(v) to distribute the balance of the Settlement Fund (the “Net Settlement Fund”) to Authorized Claimants for each Class as allowed by the Court pursuant to the Class Distribution Order. In calculating the portion of the Net Settlement Fund allocable to each Class, the Fee and Expense Award, costs of notice and administration, payment of Taxes and tax expenses described in paragraph 12 hereof, and any other Court approved costs and expenses, shall be allocated between the Direct Settlement Class and the Exchange-Only Settlement Class pro rata, based on the allocation of the Total Settlement Amount, as set forth in paragraph 2(xx) hereof, to the two Classes.

(g) With the object of reducing the costs of Class Notice, Class Lead Counsel shall use their reasonable best efforts to coordinate the provision of Class Notice pertaining to this Settlement Agreement with the provision of notice for any other settlements that may be reached. In all events, HSBC shall have no liability for the costs of provision of notice beyond those set forth in paragraph 10(b).

(h) As set forth above, HSBC shall be responsible for paying the Total Settlement Amount of \$285,000,000. HSBC shall have no responsibility for any other costs, including, as further detailed in this Settlement Agreement, any attorneys’ fees and expenses or any Taxes or tax-related costs relating to the Settlement Fund, but all such fees, expenses, and costs shall be paid from the Settlement Fund, as approved by the Court.

11. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SETTLEMENT

(a) Any Class Member who does not submit a valid proof of claim and release form will not be entitled to receive any of the proceeds from the Net Settlement Fund, but will otherwise be bound by all of the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the settlement, including the terms

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of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal to be entered in the Action and the releases provided for herein, and will be barred from bringing any action or proceeding against the Released Parties concerning the Released Claims.

(b) The Claims Administrator shall process this settlement based upon proofs of claim submitted in connection with the settlement, and, after entry of the Class Distribution Order, distribute the Net Settlement Fund in accordance with the Class Distribution Order. Except for their obligation to fund the settlement or cause it to be funded as detailed in this Settlement Agreement, HSBC shall have no liability, obligation, or responsibility for the administration of the settlement or disbursement of the Net Settlement Fund. Class Lead Counsel shall have the right, but not the obligation, to advise the Claims Administrator to waive what Class Lead Counsel reasonably deems to be formal or technical defects in any proofs of claim submitted, including, without limitation, failure to submit a document by the submission deadline, in the interests of achieving substantial justice.

(c) For purposes of determining the extent, if any, to which a Class Member shall be entitled to be treated as an Authorized Claimant, the following conditions shall apply:

(i) Each Class Member, at a time determined by the Court, shall be required to submit a proof of claim and release form (as shall be approved by the Court) which, *inter alia*, releases all Released Claims against all Released Parties, is signed under penalty of perjury by an authorized Person, and is supported by such documents or proof as Class Lead Counsel and the Claims Administrator, in their discretion, may deem acceptable;

(ii) All proofs of claim must be submitted by the date specified in the Preliminary Approval Order and the Notice Order, unless such period is extended by order of the Court. Any Class Member who fails to submit a proof of claim and release form by

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such date shall be forever barred from receiving any payment pursuant to this Settlement Agreement (unless, by order of the Court, a later submitted proof of claim and release form by such Class Member is approved), but shall in all other respects be bound by all of the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the settlement, including the terms of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal to be entered in the Action and the releases provided for herein, and will be barred from bringing any action or proceeding against the Released Parties concerning the Released Claims. Provided that it is received before the motion for the Class Distribution Order is filed, a proof of claim and release form shall be deemed to have been submitted when posted, if received with a postmark indicated on the envelope and if mailed by first-class mail and addressed in accordance with the instructions thereon. In all other cases, the proof of claim and release form shall be deemed to have been submitted when actually received by the Claims Administrator. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Class Lead Counsel shall have the discretion, but not the obligation, to accept late-submitted claims for processing by the Claims Administrator so long as distribution of the proceeds of Settlement Funds is not materially delayed. Class Lead Counsel shall have no liability for failing to accept any late-submitted claims;

(iii) Each proof of claim and release form shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Claims Administrator who shall determine whether the proof of claim and release form is in accordance with this Settlement Agreement and any applicable orders of the Court, and the extent, if any, to which each claim shall be allowed, subject to review by the Court pursuant to subparagraph 11(c)(v) below. The Claims Administrator will review each approved proof of claim and release form and determine, in accordance with the Plan of Distribution, the amount to be distributed to that claimant. The Released Parties shall not

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have any role in, or responsibility or liability to any Person for, the solicitation, review, or evaluation of proofs of claim;

(iv) Proofs of claim that do not meet the submission requirements may be rejected. Prior to rejection of a proof of claim and release form, the Claims Administrator shall communicate with the claimant in order to remedy the curable deficiencies in the proofs of claim submitted. The Claims Administrator 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 Settlement Administrator. If the claimant so desires and complies with the requirements of subparagraph 11(c)(v) below, the claimant may seek review by the Court;

(v) 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 11(c)(iv) 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. If a dispute concerning a claim cannot be otherwise resolved, Class Lead Counsel shall thereafter present the request for review to the Court; and

(vi) The administrative determinations of the Claims Administrator accepting and rejecting claims, as modified by the Settlement Administrator, as the case may be, shall be presented to the Court, on notice to HSBC's Counsel, for approval by the Court in the Class Distribution Order (as defined in paragraph 11(h)).

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(d) Each claimant shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to the claimant's claim, and the claim will be subject to investigation and discovery pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, provided that such investigation and discovery shall be limited to that claimant's status as a Class Member and the validity and amount of the claimant's claim. No discovery shall be allowed to be directed to HSBC or any of the Released Parties, and no discovery shall be allowed on the merits of the Action or settlement in connection with processing of the proofs of claim.

(e) Payment pursuant to this Settlement Agreement and the Plan of Distribution shall be deemed final and conclusive against all Class Members. All Class Members whose claims are not approved shall be barred from any participation in distributions from the Net Settlement Fund, but otherwise shall be bound by all of the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the settlement, including the terms of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal to be entered in the Action and the releases provided for herein, and will be barred from bringing any action or proceeding against the Released Parties concerning the Released Claims.

(f) All proceedings with respect to the administration, processing, and determination of claims and the determination of all controversies relating thereto, including disputed questions of law and fact with respect to the validity of claims, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.

(g) The Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed by the Claims Administrator to, or for the account of, Authorized Claimants, as the case may be, only after the Effective Date and after:

(i) all claims have been processed and evaluated by the Claims Administrator, and, where requested, by the Settlement Administrator, 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

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concerning such rejection or disallowance; (ii) all objections with respect to all rejected or disallowed claims have been resolved by the Court, and all appeals therefrom have been resolved or the time therefor has expired; (iii) all matters with respect to the Fee and Expense Application have been resolved by the Court, and all appeals therefrom have been resolved or the time therefor has expired; and (iv) all fees and costs of administration have been paid.

(h) Class Lead Counsel will apply to the Court for an order (the “Class Distribution Order”) approving the Claims Administrator’s and, where applicable, the Settlement Administrator’s determinations concerning the acceptance and rejection of the claims submitted herein and approving any fees and expenses not previously applied for, including the fees and expenses of the Settlement Administrator and the Claims Administrator, and, if the Effective Date has occurred, directing payment of the Net Settlement Fund to or for the account of Authorized Claimants, as the case may be.

(i) Class Plaintiffs and Class Members shall look solely to the Settlement Fund as full, final, and complete satisfaction of all Released Claims. Except as set forth in paragraph 10(b), HSBC shall have no obligation under this Settlement Agreement or the settlement to pay or cause to be paid any amount of money, and HSBC shall have no obligation to pay or reimburse any fees, expenses, costs, liability, losses, Taxes, or damages whatsoever alleged or incurred by Class Plaintiffs, by any Class Member, or by any Releasing Parties, including but not limited to by their attorneys, experts, advisors, agents, or representatives, with respect to the Action and Released Claims. Class Plaintiffs and Class Members acknowledge that as of the Effective Date, the releases given herein shall become effective immediately by operation of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal and shall be permanent, absolute, and unconditional.

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(j) HSBC shall not have a reversionary interest in the Net Settlement Fund. If there is a balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund after six (6) months from the date of distribution of the Net Settlement Fund (whether by reason of tax refunds, uncashed checks or otherwise), or reasonably soon thereafter, the Claims Administrator shall, if logistically feasible and economically justifiable, reallocate such balances among Authorized Claimants in an equitable fashion. These redistributions shall be repeated until the remaining balance in the Net Settlement Fund is *de minimis* and such remaining balance shall be donated to an appropriate 501(c)(3) non-profit organization selected by Class Lead Counsel.

12. TAXES

(a) The Parties agree that the Settlement Fund is intended to be a Qualified Settlement Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1, and agree not to take any position for Tax purposes inconsistent therewith. The Settlement Fund, less any amounts incurred for notice, administration, and/or Taxes (as defined below), plus any accrued interest thereon, shall be returned to HSBC, as provided in paragraph 13(c), if the settlement does not become effective for any reason, including by reason of a termination of this Settlement Agreement pursuant to paragraphs 10(c), 13(a), or 13(b).

(b) For the purpose of § 468B of the Code and the Treasury regulations thereunder, Class Lead Counsel shall be designated as the “administrator” of the Settlement Fund. Class Lead Counsel shall timely and properly file all income, informational, and other tax returns necessary or advisable with respect to the Settlement Fund (including, without limitation, the returns described in Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-2(k)). Such returns shall be consistent with this paragraph 12 and in all events shall reflect that all Taxes (as defined below) on the income earned by the Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund as provided herein.

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(c) All: (i) taxes or other similar imposts or charges (including any estimated taxes, interest, penalties, or additions to tax) arising with respect to the income earned by the Settlement Fund, including any taxes or tax detriments that may be imposed upon the Released Parties with respect to any income earned by the Settlement Fund for any period during which the Settlement Fund does not qualify as a “Qualified Settlement Fund” within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1 (or any relevant equivalent for state tax purposes); and (ii) other taxes or tax expenses imposed on or in connection with the Settlement Fund (collectively “Taxes”), shall promptly be paid out of the Settlement Fund by the Escrow Agent without prior order from the Court. The Escrow Agent shall also be obligated to, and shall be responsible for, withholding from distribution to Class Members any funds necessary to pay such amounts, including the establishment of adequate reserves for any Taxes. The Parties agree to cooperate with the Escrow Agent, each other, and their tax attorneys and accountants to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this paragraph.

(d) Neither the Parties nor their counsel shall have any responsibility for or liability whatsoever with respect to: (i) any act, omission, or determination of the Escrow Agent, Claims Administrator, or Settlement Administrator, or any of their respective designees or agents, in connection with the administration of the Settlement Fund or otherwise; (ii) the Plan of Distribution; (iii) the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any claims asserted against the Settlement Fund; (iv) any losses suffered by, or fluctuations in the value of, the Settlement Fund; or (v) the payment or withholding of any Taxes, expenses, and/or costs incurred in connection with the taxation of the Settlement Fund or the filing of any returns. The Escrow Agent shall indemnify and hold harmless the Parties out of the Settlement Fund from and against any claims, liabilities, or losses relating to the matters addressed in the preceding sentence.

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13. TERMINATION OF SETTLEMENT

(a) Class Plaintiffs, through Class Lead Counsel, and HSBC, through HSBC's Counsel, shall, in each of their separate discretions, have the right to terminate the settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement by providing written notice of their election to do so ("Termination Notice") to all other Parties hereto within thirty (30) days of the date on which: (i) the Court enters an order declining to enter the Preliminary Approval Order in any material respect; (ii) the Court enters an order refusing to approve this Settlement Agreement or any material part of it; (iii) the Court enters an order declining to enter the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal in any material respect; (iv) the Court enters an Alternative Judgment; (v) the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal is modified or reversed by a court of appeal or any higher court in any material respect; or (vi) an Alternative Judgment is modified or reversed by a court of appeal or any higher court in any material respect. Notwithstanding this paragraph, the Court's determination as to the Fee and Expense Application and/or any Plan of Distribution, or any determination on appeal from any such order, shall not provide grounds for termination of this Settlement Agreement or settlement.

(b) Upon application to the Mediator, this Settlement Agreement may be terminated if the Mediator determines that all Persons that excluded themselves from the Classes pursuant to paragraph 5(d) would likely have been eligible to receive collectively (but for their exclusion) a material part of the potential distributions from the Settlement Fund. Any application to terminate under this paragraph must be made in writing within thirty (30) days following the deadline for Persons to exclude themselves from the Classes.

(c) Except as otherwise provided herein, in the event the Settlement Agreement is terminated in accordance herewith, is vacated, is not approved, or the Effective Date fails to occur for any reason, then the Parties to this Settlement Agreement shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective status in the Action as of the Execution Date, and, except as otherwise expressly

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provided herein, the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Settlement Agreement and any related orders had not been entered, and any portion of the Settlement Fund previously paid by or on behalf of HSBC, together with any interest earned thereon (and, if applicable, re-payment of any Fee and Expense Award referred to in paragraph 9(a) hereof), less Taxes due, if any, with respect to such income, and less costs of administration and notice actually incurred and paid or payable from the Settlement Fund (not to exceed \$500,000 without the prior approval of the Court) shall be returned to HSBC within ten (10) business days from the date of the event causing such termination. At the request of HSBC's Counsel, the Escrow Agent shall apply for any tax refund owed on the Settlement Fund and pay the proceeds to HSBC.

(d) Neither HSBC nor HSBC's Counsel shall directly, or indirectly, solicit or encourage any Person to request exclusion from the Class.

14. CONFIRMATORY DISCOVERY AND COOPERATION OBLIGATIONS

(a) In consideration for the dismissal of Class Plaintiffs' and the Class Members' claims against HSBC in the Action and the release of the Released Claims, subject to any order from the Court, HSBC agrees to provide reasonable cooperation, including confirmatory discovery, as requested unanimously by Class Lead Counsel, to the benefit of Class Plaintiffs and the Class Members, relating to all forms and types of Released Claims, provided, however, that HSBC's obligations with respect to cooperation, including the timing and substance of cooperation, shall be subject to such limitations as are ordered by the Court, including those imposed by the Court's Order dated March 23, 2015 (Dkt. #274) (the "March 23, 2015 Order"). All cooperation and confirmatory discovery shall be coordinated in such a manner so that all unnecessary duplication and expense is avoided. HSBC's cooperation obligations shall apply only to Releasing Parties who act with, by or through Class Lead Counsel pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Settlement Agreement, HSBC may assert,

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where applicable, the work-product doctrine, the attorney-client privilege, the common interest privilege, the joint defense privilege, the bank regulatory or examination privilege, obligations under applicable data privacy laws or regulations, and/or any other applicable privilege or protection with respect to any documents, interviews, declarations and/or affidavits, depositions, testimony, material, and/or information requested under this Settlement Agreement. For any documents withheld from production of documents to Class Plaintiffs pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, HSBC shall, if directed by the Mediator, create a privilege log describing withheld documents in sufficient detail so as to explain the nature of the privilege asserted or the basis of any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such documents. This privilege log shall be produced to Class Plaintiffs only upon direction of the Mediator if a dispute arises, and after production of the privilege log, the Parties will make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute. In the event of a disagreement between HSBC and Class Lead Counsel regarding a claim of privilege or work product, the Parties will seek resolution of such disputes from the Mediator, with HSBC retaining the right to seek a ruling from the Court with respect to the applicability of privilege or work product. If any document protected by the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product doctrine, the common interest doctrine, the joint defense privilege, the bank regulatory or examination privilege, and/or any other applicable privilege or protection, or by any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such documents is accidentally or inadvertently produced, the document shall promptly be returned to HSBC, and its production shall in no way be construed to have waived any privilege or protection attached to such document. The confidentiality of any documents, declarations, affidavits, deposition testimony, and information provided to Class Plaintiffs pursuant to this provision shall be covered by the protective order in effect in the Action,

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in the same manner as discovery material. If no protective order is in effect, any such documents, declarations, affidavits, deposition testimony, and information shall be maintained as confidential and available only to Class Lead Counsel and HSBC's Counsel. None of the cooperation provisions are intended to, nor do they, waive any applicable privilege or protection. HSBC's Counsel will meet with Class Lead Counsel as is reasonably necessary to discuss any applicable domestic or foreign privilege or protection. The information provided by HSBC's Counsel in connection with oral presentations may be utilized by Class Plaintiffs or Class Lead Counsel to assist in the prosecution of the Action or any action related to any Released Claim, but not for the prosecution of any action or proceeding against any Released Party nor for any other purpose whatsoever. The Parties expressly agree that any use of the information provided in connection with the confirmatory discovery and cooperation obligations set forth in this paragraph 14, including without limitation oral presentations, may be used directly or indirectly by Class Plaintiffs or Class Lead Counsel solely in connection with the prosecution of the Action or any action related to any Released Claim, but not for the prosecution of any action or proceeding against any Released Party nor for any other purpose whatsoever.

(b) Subject to the foregoing paragraph, HSBC will provide Class Plaintiffs and Class Members the following cooperation and confirmatory discovery but in all events limited to the subject matter of the Released Claims:

(i) **Preliminary Approval:** HSBC shall cooperate to the extent reasonably necessary in connection with Class Lead Counsel's preparation of the motion for preliminary approval and any related documents necessary to effectuate and implement the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

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(ii) **Proffers:** Beginning within ten (10) business days of the Execution Date, and following a request by Class Lead Counsel, HSBC's Counsel will meet with Class Lead Counsel at a mutually agreeable time and place to provide: (1) a general description of FX Trading; and (2) a description of facts relevant to conduct relating to all forms and types of Released Claims, including but not limited to (a) the conduct and (b) the products and instruments affected by such conduct. To the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, the proffer shall also identify all current and former officers, directors, and employees of HSBC who have been interviewed by any United States or European country governmental body, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ"), U.S. Commodities Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC"), Federal Reserve Bank, Office of Comptroller of the Currency, ("OCC"), New York Department of Financial Services ("NYDFS"), U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA"), United Kingdom Serious Fraud Office ("SFO"), European Commission ("EC"), the Swiss Competition Commission ("Swiss WEKO"), the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority ("Swiss FINMA"), and the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority ("BaFin"), investigating alleged manipulative or anticompetitive conduct in, or affecting, FX Trading, and include the last known contact information for any former officers, directors and employees of HSBC identified pursuant to this paragraph, and, if represented by counsel, then contact information for counsel.

(iii) **Production of Transaction Data:** As soon as possible after the Execution Date, the Parties shall agree on a schedule to meet and confer about production by HSBC

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of transaction data related to the subject matter of the Action. If the Parties are unable to agree on the scope of the transaction data to be produced, the issue shall be submitted to the Mediator for resolution. HSBC shall produce the transaction data agreed upon (or, in the event no agreement can be reached, that the Mediator directs) as expeditiously as practicable.

(iv) **Production of Documents Produced to Governmental Bodies:** Within ten (10) business days after the Execution Date, HSBC shall commence preparation for production to Class Plaintiffs, in a mutually agreeable electronic format, and to the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such documents, those documents that it has already produced or made available to any grand jury or United States or European country governmental body, including but not limited to DOJ, CFTC, OCC, NYDFS, SEC, FCA, SFO, EC, Swiss WEKO, Swiss FINMA, and BaFin, pursuant to investigations of alleged manipulative or anticompetitive conduct in, or affecting, FX Trading. Upon request from Class Lead Counsel, HSBC shall produce these documents to Class Plaintiffs, to the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such documents, within ten (10) business days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order.

(v) **Production of Additional Documents and Data:** After the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, while the Action or any action related to any Released Claims remains pending, at Class Lead Counsel's written request and explanation, HSBC will use its reasonable best efforts to produce reasonably requested documents and transactional

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data in a mutually agreeable electronic format, to the extent such production is not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such documents. The Parties shall meet and confer over any such requests, and in the event of a disagreement between HSBC and Class Lead Counsel regarding the scope, burden, relevance, or permissibility of any such requests, the Parties will seek resolution of such disputes from the Mediator. To the extent that it is reasonably able to do so, HSBC shall also identify any documents formerly in its possession, custody, or control that it is currently unable to produce.

(vi) **Further Oral Presentation(s):** After the production of transaction data and documents described in paragraphs 14(b)(iii), (iv), and (v), or as otherwise agreed to by the Parties, and to the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order, or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, HSBC's Counsel shall provide another oral presentation(s) at a mutually agreeable time and place to provide Class Lead Counsel: (1) HSBC's Counsel's understanding of the information contained in such documents; and (2) to the extent known, the specific locations and dates of all meetings or communications relating to the transactions and conduct that are the subject matter of all forms and types of Released Claims including, the identification, last known contact information of all current and former officers, directors, and employees of HSBC and any other bank in each such meeting or communication, and a description of the documents prepared at or related to each such meeting or communication. In connection with the production of transactional data, HSBC shall use reasonable best efforts to make

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available its current personnel, at reasonable times, to assist Class Lead Counsel in understanding such data. For all documents produced by HSBC pursuant to this Settlement Agreement that are not in English, HSBC shall provide any certified or uncertified English translations of such documents it has available. HSBC is not obligated to create any new translations of documents for use by Class Plaintiffs or Class Lead Counsel.

(vii) **Interviews:** After the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, upon reasonable notice, and to the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court or any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, at HSBC's expense, HSBC shall use its reasonable best efforts to make available for interviews with Class Lead Counsel and/or their experts no more than three (3) current HSBC employees designated by Class Lead Counsel. Each interview shall take place on a single day and shall not exceed eight hours. The interviews will not be videotaped, recorded, or professionally transcribed. HSBC will also respond to reasonable follow-up inquiries of Class Lead Counsel throughout the duration of this Action or any action related to any Released Claims. At Class Lead Counsel's request, and for good cause, HSBC will meet and confer regarding no more than five (5) additional interviews of current HSBC employees sought by Class Lead Counsel, but failing agreement between the Parties, the Parties will seek resolution of such disputes from the Mediator. If HSBC is unable to make a requested current HSBC employee available in the United States, HSBC shall use its reasonable best efforts to make the individual available at such alternative location as Class Lead Counsel may reasonably request. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement

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Agreement, in the event that HSBC believes that Class Lead Counsel has unreasonably designated any current employee for interview, the Parties agree to meet and confer regarding such designation and seek resolution from the Mediator if necessary. HSBC shall use good faith efforts to assist Class Lead Counsel in arranging interviews with former HSBC employees. To the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, HSBC will provide Class Lead Counsel with the last known contact information for any former employees of HSBC identified pursuant to this paragraph, and, if represented by counsel, the counsel's contact information. Class Lead Counsel and HSBC will confer regarding the use of telephone interviews where appropriate. Other than its own legal fees, HSBC shall not be responsible for any expenses associated with interviews of former HSBC employees, so long as such former employees are separately represented or unrepresented.

(viii) **Declarations and Affidavits:** After the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, upon reasonable notice, and to the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, at HSBC's expense, HSBC shall use its reasonable best efforts to make available to Class Lead Counsel no more than three (3) current HSBC employees designated by Class Lead Counsel for the preparation of declarations and/or affidavits throughout the duration of this Action or any action related to any Released Claims. At Class Lead Counsel's request and for good cause, HSBC will meet and confer regarding no more than five (5) additional individuals, but failing agreement the Parties shall seek resolution by the Mediator. HSBC will also use its

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reasonable best efforts to make current HSBC employees available to provide declarations, certifications, or affidavits regarding the authentication of documents, including their certification as records of a regularly conducted activity pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 803(6) (such declarations, certifications, and/or affidavits shall not count towards the three (3) permitted pursuant to this paragraph). Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, in the event that HSBC believes that Class Lead Counsel has unreasonably designated any current employee for the preparation of declarations and/or affidavits, the Parties agree to meet and confer regarding such designation and seek resolution from the Mediator if necessary. HSBC shall make good faith efforts to assist Class Lead Counsel in arranging for such declarations and/or affidavits from former HSBC employees for such purposes. To the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, HSBC will provide Class Lead Counsel with the last known contact information for any former employees of HSBC identified pursuant to this paragraph, and, if represented by counsel, the counsel's contact information. Other than its own legal fees, HSBC shall not be responsible for any expenses associated with the preparation of declarations and/or affidavits.

(ix) **Depositions:** After the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order and upon reasonable notice, at HSBC's expense, HSBC shall use its reasonable best efforts to make available for depositions in the Action or any action related to any Released Claims no more than three (3) current HSBC employees designated by Class Lead Counsel. At Class Lead Counsel's request and for good cause, HSBC will meet and confer regarding no more than five (5) additional individuals, but failing agreement, the Parties will seek resolution

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by the Mediator. Written notice by Class Lead Counsel upon HSBC's Counsel shall constitute sufficient service for such depositions. If HSBC is unable to make a requested individual available in the United States, HSBC shall use its reasonable best efforts to make the individual available at such alternative location as Class Lead Counsel may reasonably request. HSBC shall use good faith efforts to assist Class Lead Counsel in arranging the deposition of former HSBC employees. To the extent not prohibited by the March 23, 2015 Order or any subsequent Order of the Court, or any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, HSBC will provide Class Lead Counsel with the last known contact information for any former employees of HSBC identified pursuant to this paragraph, and, if represented by counsel, the counsel's contact information. For witnesses represented by HSBC's Counsel, or for whom HSBC is providing counsel, depositions shall be administered according to the rules and limitations of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, regardless of the location at which they take place or the citizenship of the deponent. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, in the event that HSBC believes that Class Lead Counsel has unreasonably designated any current employee for deposition, the Parties agree to meet and confer regarding such designation and seek resolution from the Mediator if necessary. Other than its own legal fees, HSBC shall not be responsible for any expenses associated with the depositions of former employees, so long as such former employees are separately represented or unrepresented.

(x) **Testimony at Trial:** Upon reasonable notice and at HSBC's expense, HSBC shall use its reasonable best efforts to make available for testimony at trial in the Action or any action related to any Released Claims, but not for the prosecution of any

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action or proceeding against any Released Party (nor for any other purpose whatsoever), each of the then-current HSBC employees designated by Class Lead Counsel pursuant to the paragraphs above, who possess information, based on Class Lead Counsel's good faith belief, that would assist Class Plaintiffs in trial of the Class Plaintiffs' claims as alleged in the Action or any action related to any Released Claim, but not for the prosecution of any action or proceeding against any Released Party, nor for any other purpose whatsoever. HSBC shall use good faith efforts to assist Class Lead Counsel in arranging for the appearance of former employees at trial. Other than its own legal fees, HSBC shall not be obligated to bear the expenses, including but not limited to legal fees, of testimony of such former employees, so long as such former employees are separately represented or unrepresented. To the extent not prohibited by any law, regulation, policy, or other rule of any governmental body protecting disclosure of such information, HSBC will provide Class Lead Counsel with the last known contact information for any former employees of HSBC identified pursuant to this paragraph, and, if represented by counsel, the counsel's contact information. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, in the event that HSBC believes that Class Lead Counsel has unreasonably designated any then current employee for testimony at trial, the Parties agree to meet and confer regarding such designation and seek resolution from the Mediator if necessary.

(xi) **Continuation, Scope, and Termination of HSBC's Obligation:** HSBC's obligations to cooperate under the Settlement Agreement are continuing until and shall terminate upon the later of: (X) the date when final judgment has been rendered, with no remaining rights of appeal, in the Action against all Defendants; or (Y) seven (7) years after the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order.

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(c) In the event of a disagreement between HSBC and Class Lead Counsel with respect to this paragraph 14, the Parties will seek resolution from the Mediator, if necessary.

15. RESERVATION OF CLASS MEMBERS' RIGHTS AGAINST OTHER DEFENDANTS

All rights of any Class Member against other former, current, or future defendants or co-conspirators, or any other Person other than the Released Parties, with respect to any of the Released Claims are specifically reserved by Class Plaintiffs and the Class Members. The purchase, sale, and trading of FX Instruments and FX Exchange-Traded Instruments by HSBC shall, to the extent permitted and/or authorized by law, remain in the case against the other current or future defendants in the Action as a potential basis for damage claims and shall be part of any joint and several liability claims against the other former, current, or future defendants in the Action or any other Persons other than the Released Parties.

16. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) All of the exhibits attached hereto are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein and are material and integral parts hereof.

(b) The Parties to this Settlement Agreement intend the settlement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes asserted or which could be asserted by Class Plaintiffs and/or any Class Member against the Released Parties with respect to the Action and the Released Claims. Accordingly, Class Plaintiffs and HSBC agree not to assert in any judicial proceeding that the Action was brought by Class Plaintiffs or defended by HSBC in bad faith or without a reasonable basis. The Parties further agree not to assert in any judicial proceeding that any Party violated Fed. R. Civ. P. 11. The Parties 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 after consultation with experienced legal counsel and the Mediator.

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

(d) The administration and consummation of the settlement as embodied in this Settlement Agreement shall be under the authority of the Court, and the Court shall retain jurisdiction for the purpose of entering orders relating to the Fee and Expense Application, the Plan of Distribution, and enforcing the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

(e) For the purpose of construing or interpreting this Settlement Agreement, Class Plaintiffs and HSBC agree that it is to be deemed to have been drafted equally by all Parties hereto and shall not be construed strictly for or against any Party.

(f) This Settlement Agreement shall constitute the entire agreement between Class Plaintiffs and HSBC pertaining to the settlement of the Action against HSBC and supersedes any and all prior and contemporaneous undertakings of Class Plaintiffs and HSBC in connection therewith. All terms of this Settlement Agreement are contractual and not mere recitals. The terms of this Settlement Agreement are and shall be binding upon each of the Parties hereto, their heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, agents, attorneys, partners, successors, predecessors-in-interest, and assigns, and upon all other Persons claiming any interest in the subject matter hereto through any of the Parties hereto including any Class Members.

(g) This Settlement Agreement may be modified or amended only by a writing executed by Class Plaintiffs, through Class Lead Counsel, and HSBC, through HSBC's Counsel, subject (if after preliminary or final approval by the Court) to approval by the Court. Amendments and modifications may be made without notice to the Classes unless notice is required by law or by the Court.

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(h) Nothing in this Settlement Agreement constitutes an admission by HSBC as to the merits of the allegations made in the Action, the validity of any defenses that could be asserted by HSBC, or the appropriateness of certification of any class other than the Classes under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 solely for settlement purposes. This Settlement Agreement is without prejudice to the rights of HSBC to: (i) challenge the Court's certification of any class, including the Class, in the Action should the Settlement Agreement not be approved or implemented for any reason; and/or (ii) oppose any certification or request for certification in any other proposed or certified class action.

(i) All terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted according to the substantive laws of New York without regard to its choice-of-law principles.

(j) Except as provided in paragraph 14, HSBC, Class Plaintiffs, their respective counsel, and the Class Members hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, for any suit, action, proceeding or dispute arising out of or relating to this Settlement Agreement or the applicability of this Settlement Agreement, including, without limitation, any suit, action, proceeding, or dispute relating to the release provisions herein.

(k) The Parties acknowledge that the Classes include both customers and non-customers of HSBC, and that this Settlement Agreement makes no determination as to which Class Members are entitled to distribution of the Settlement Fund, or as to the formula for determining the amounts to be distributed.

(l) The proposed Plan of Distribution is not a necessary term of this Settlement Agreement and it is not a condition of this Settlement Agreement that any particular Plan of Distribution be approved. The Released Parties will take no position with respect to the proposed Plan of Distribution or such Plan of Distribution as may be approved by the Court. The Plan of

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Distribution is a matter separate and apart from the settlement between the Parties and any decision by the Court concerning a particular Plan of Distribution shall not affect the validity or finality of the proposed settlement, including the scope of the release.

(m) This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts by Class Plaintiffs and HSBC, and a facsimile or .pdf signature shall be deemed an original signature for purposes of executing this Settlement Agreement.

(n) Class Plaintiffs and HSBC acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel and have made their own investigations of the matters covered by this Settlement Agreement to the extent they have deemed it necessary to do so. Therefore, Class Plaintiffs and HSBC and their respective counsel agree that they will not seek to set aside any part of this Settlement Agreement on the grounds of mistake. Moreover, Class Plaintiffs and HSBC and their respective counsel understand, agree, and expressly assume the risk that any fact may turn out hereinafter to be other than, different from, or contrary to the facts now known to them or believed by them to be true, and further agree that this Settlement Agreement shall be effective in all respects notwithstanding and shall not be subject to termination, modification, or rescission by reason of any such difference in facts.

(o) Each of the undersigned attorneys represents that he is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of, and to execute, this Settlement Agreement, subject to Court approval; and the undersigned Class Lead Counsel represent that they are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of Class Plaintiffs. Each of the undersigned attorneys shall use their best efforts to effectuate this Settlement Agreement.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto, through their fully authorized representatives, have agreed to this Settlement Agreement as of the date first herein written above.

On behalf of Class Plaintiffs and the Class:

On behalf of HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.

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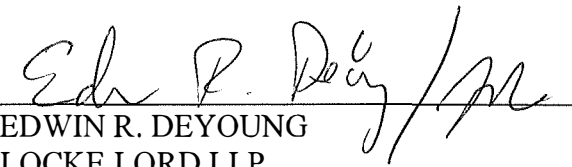
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On behalf of Class Plaintiffs and the Class:

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On behalf of HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.



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On behalf of Class Plaintiffs and the Class:



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On behalf of HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.

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EXHIBIT A

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

----- X
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IN RE FOREIGN EXCHANGE :
BENCHMARK RATES ANTITRUST : No. 1:13-cv-07789-LGS
LITIGATION :
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**[PROPOSED] ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENTS,
CONDITIONALLY CERTIFYING THE SETTLEMENT CLASSES, AND
APPOINTING CLASS COUNSEL AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVES FOR
THE SETTLEMENT CLASSES**

WHEREAS, the Action¹ is pending before this Court;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs² have entered into and executed Stipulations and Agreements of Settlement that have been attached as Exhibits 1 to 9 of the Declaration of Christopher M. Burke and Michael D. Hausfeld in Support of Class Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement Agreements (ECF No. ___) and listed on Exhibit 1 hereto (each a "Settlement Agreement" and collectively, the "Settlement Agreements") with Bank of America Corporation, Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.; Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Capital Inc.; BNP Paribas Group, BNP Paribas North America Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., and BNP Prime Brokerage, Inc.; Citigroup Inc., Citibank, N.A., Citicorp, and Citigroup Global Markets Inc.; The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co.; HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA)

¹ As defined in the Settlement Agreements, the "Action" means *In re Foreign Exchange Benchmark Rates Antitrust Litigation*, 13 Civ. 7789, which is currently pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and includes all actions filed in or transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and consolidated thereunder and all actions that may be so transferred and consolidated in the future, including: *Taylor v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 1350), *Sterk v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 2705), *Bakizada v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4230), *Teel v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4436), and *Robert Charles Class A, L.P. v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4926).

² As defined in the Settlement Agreements, "Class Plaintiffs" are: Aureus Currency Fund, L.P.; the City of Philadelphia, Board of Pensions and Retirement; Employees' Retirement System of the Government of the Virgin Islands; Employees' Retirement System of Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority; Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association; Haverhill Retirement System; Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; State-Boston Retirement System; Syena Global Emerging Markets Fund, LP; Systrax Corporation; Tiberius OC Fund, Ltd.; United Food and Commercial Workers Union and Participating Food Industry Employers Tri-State Pension Fund; and Value Recovery Fund L.L.C. (collectively, "Direct Class Plaintiffs"); J. Paul Antonello; Marc G. Federighi; Thomas Gramatis; Doug Harvey; Izee Trading Company; John Kerstein; Michael Melissinos; Mark Miller; Robert Miller; Richard Preschern d/b/a Preschern Trading; Peter Rives; Michael J. Smith; Jeffrey Sterk; and Kimberly Sterk (collectively, "Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs").

Inc.; JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, and RBS Securities Inc.; and UBS AG, UBS Group AG, and UBS Securities LLC (collectively, the “Settling Defendants,” and together with Class Plaintiffs, the “Settling Parties”), which, if finally approved by the Court, will result in the settlement of all claims against Settling Defendants;

WHEREAS, in full and final settlement of the claims asserted against them in this Action, the Settling Defendants have individually agreed to pay amounts which in the aggregate total \$2,009,075,000 (the “Aggregate Settlement Funds”), and to provide reasonable cooperation in the continued prosecution of the Action as set forth in the Settlement Agreements (the “Cooperation Provisions”);

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs, having made application pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for an order preliminarily approving the Settlement Agreements, each of which sets forth the terms and conditions of the settlement of the Action against each Settling Defendant and for dismissal of the Action against each Settling Defendant with prejudice upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreements;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs have sought, and the Settling Defendants have agreed not to object to, the certification of the Settlement Classes (as defined below) solely for settlement purposes;

WHEREAS, solely for settlement purposes, the Settlement Classes meet the numerosity, typicality, commonality, and adequacy requirements of Rule 23(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the predominance requirement of Rule 23(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and therefore, solely for settlement purposes, the Settlement Classes should be certified;

WHEREAS, Class Lead Counsel have requested that they be appointed as settlement class counsel for the Settlement Classes pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs have requested that they be appointed class representatives of the Settlement Classes;

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties have agreed to the entry of this Preliminary Approval Order (the “Order”);

WHEREAS, the Court has considered the Settlement Agreements and other documents submitted in connection with Class Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement Agreements, certification of the Settlement Classes, and appointment of settlement class counsel and class representatives for the Settlement Classes, and good cause appearing therefor;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All terms in initial capitalization used in this Order shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Settlement Agreements, unless otherwise defined herein.

I. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

2. Upon review of the record, the Court finds that the Settlement Agreements resulted from arm’s-length negotiations between highly experienced counsel and fall within the range of possible approval. Therefore, the Settlement Agreements are hereby preliminarily approved, subject to further consideration thereof at the Fairness Hearing described below. The Court preliminarily finds that the settlements encompassed by the Settlement Agreements raise no obvious reasons to doubt their fairness and raise a reasonable basis for presuming that the Settlement Agreements satisfy the requirements of Rules 23(c)(2) and 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and due process so that an appropriate notice of the Settlement Agreements should be given as provided in this Order.

II. CERTIFICATION OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASSES

3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court preliminarily certifies, solely for purposes of effectuating the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements, the following “Settlement Classes”:

The Direct Settlement Class: All Persons who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into an FX Instrument directly with a Defendant, a direct or indirect parent, subsidiary, or division of a Defendant, a Released Party, or co-conspirator where such Persons were either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, transacted FX Instruments in the United States or its territories. Specifically excluded from the Direct Settlement Class are Defendants; Released Parties; co-conspirators; the officers, directors, or employees of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator; any entity in which any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator has a controlling interest; any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator and any person acting on their behalf; provided, however, that Investment Vehicles shall not be excluded from the definition of the Direct Settlement Class. Also excluded from the Direct Settlement Class are any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action.

The Exchange-Only Settlement Class: All Persons who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into FX Exchange-Traded Instruments where such Persons were either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, entered into FX Exchange-Traded Instruments on a U.S. exchange. Specifically excluded from the Exchange-Only Settlement

Class are Defendants; Released Parties; co-conspirators; the officers, directors, or employees of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator; any entity in which any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator has a controlling interest; any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator and any person acting on their behalf; provided, however, that Investment Vehicles shall not be excluded from the definition of the Exchange-Only Settlement Class. Also excluded from the Exchange-Only Settlement Class are: (i) any judicial officer presiding over this action and any member of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action; and (ii) any Person who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into an FX Instrument directly with a Defendant, a direct or indirect parent, subsidiary, or division of a Defendant, a Released Party, or co-conspirator, where such Person was either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, transacted FX Instruments in the United States or its territories.

4. Solely for purposes of the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements, the Court preliminarily finds that the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3) have been satisfied, as follows: (a) the members of the Settlement Classes are so numerous that joinder of all Class Members in the Action is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Classes and these common questions predominate over any individual questions; (c) the claims of Class Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the Settlement Classes; (d) Class Plaintiffs and Class Lead Counsel have fairly and adequately represented and protected the interests of the Settlement Classes; and (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, considering (i) the interests of the

members of the Settlement Classes in individually controlling the prosecution of separate actions; (ii) the extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy already begun by members of the Settlement Classes; (iii) the desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of these claims in this particular forum; and (iv) the likely difficulties in managing this Action as a class action.

5. If the Effective Date does not occur with respect to one or more of the Settlement Agreements because of the failure of a condition that affects such Settlement Agreement(s), this conditional certification of the Settlement Classes shall be deemed null and void as to the Parties subject to such Settlement Agreement(s) without the need for further action by the Court or any of the Settling Parties. In such circumstances, each of the Settling Parties shall retain their rights to seek or to object to certification of this litigation as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or under any other state or federal rule, statute, law, or provision thereof, and to contest and appeal any grant or denial of certification in this litigation or in any other litigation on any other grounds.

III. CLASS COUNSEL AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

6. Pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and solely for settlement purposes, the following counsel are designated as settlement class counsel for the Settlement Classes:

Christopher M. Burke
Scott+Scott, Attorneys at Law, LLP
707 Broadway, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

Michael D. Hausfeld
Hausfeld LLP
1700 K Street, NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20006

7. Direct Class Plaintiffs will serve as class representatives on behalf of the Direct Settlement Class, and Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs will serve as class representatives on behalf of the Exchange-Only Settlement Class.

IV. PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION, CLASS NOTICE, AND FAIRNESS HEARING

8. At a later date, Class Lead Counsel shall submit for the Court's approval a proposed Plan of Distribution of the Settlement Funds.

9. At a later date, Class Lead Counsel shall submit for the Court's approval a notice plan for purposes of advising members of the Settlement Classes, among other things, of their right to object to the Settlement Agreements, their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Classes, the procedure for submitting a request for exclusion, the time, date, and location of the Fairness Hearing, and their right to appear at the Fairness Hearing.

V. OTHER PROVISIONS

10. The notice requirements of the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1715, have been met.

11. The Court approves the Settling Parties' designation of Kenneth Feinberg as the Settlement Administrator. Absent further order of the Court, the Settlement Administrator shall have such duties and responsibilities as are set forth in the Settlement Agreements.

12. The Court approves Class Lead Counsel's designation of The Garden City Group as Claims Administrator. Absent further order of the Court, the Claims Administrator shall have such duties and responsibilities as are set forth in the Settlement Agreements.

13. The Court approves the Class Lead Counsel's designation of Huntington National Bank as Escrow Agent. Absent further order of the Court, the Escrow Agent shall have such duties and responsibilities in such capacity as are set forth in the Settlement Agreements.

14. The Court approves the establishment of escrow accounts under the Settlement Agreements as Qualified Settlement Funds ("QSFs") pursuant to Internal Revenue Code §468B and

the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, and retains continuing jurisdiction as to any issue that may arise in connection with the formulation or administration of the QSFs.

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

16. All reasonable expenses incurred in identifying and notifying potential Class Members as well as administering the Aggregate Settlement Funds shall be paid as set forth in the Settlement Agreements. In the event the Court does not approve the settlements set forth in one or more of the Settlement Agreements, or if one or more of the Settlement Agreements otherwise fails to become effective, neither Class Plaintiffs nor any of their counsel shall have any obligation to repay any amounts actually and *bona fide* incurred or disbursed pursuant to paragraph 10(b) of such Settlement Agreement(s).

17. If one or more of the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements is terminated pursuant to such Settlement Agreement, then solely with respect to any Party to such Settlement Agreement, such Settlement Agreement (including any amendment(s) thereto) and this Order shall be null and void, of no further force or effect, and without prejudice to any such Party, and may not be introduced as evidence or referred to in any actions or proceedings by any Person, and each such Party shall be restored to his, her, or its respective position as it existed prior to the execution of such Settlement Agreement.

18. Except as otherwise provided herein, in the event that one or more of the Settlement Agreements is terminated, is vacated, is not approved, or the Effective Date fails to occur for any reason, then the Parties to such Settlement Agreement shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective status in the Action as of the Execution Date, and, except as otherwise expressly provided

herein, such Parties shall proceed in all respects as if such Settlement Agreement and any related orders had not been entered, and any portion of the Settlement Fund previously paid by or on behalf of the respective Settling Defendant, together with any interest earned thereon (and, if applicable, repayment of any Fee and Expense Award referred to in paragraph 9(a) of such Settlement Agreement), less Taxes due, if any, with respect to such income, and less costs of administration and notice actually incurred and paid or payable from the Settlement Fund (not to exceed the dollar limit set forth in each Settlement Agreement without the prior approval of the Court) shall be returned to such Settling Defendant within ten (10) business days from the date of the event causing such termination. At the request of such Settling Defendant's Counsel, the Escrow Agent shall apply for any tax refund owed on the Settlement Fund and pay the proceeds to such Settling Defendant.

19. Neither any of the Settling Defendants, nor any of their counsel, nor any of the Released Parties (as defined in each of the Settlement Agreements) shall have any responsibility for, or liability whatsoever with respect to the notice procedures; the investment, administration, or distribution of any Settlement Fund or the Aggregate Settlement Funds; the Plan of Distribution; the determination, administration, calculation, or payment of any claims asserted against any Settlement Fund or the Aggregate Settlement Funds; or any funds held by the Escrow Agent; the payment or withholding of Taxes; any losses incurred in connection therewith; any application for attorneys' fees, service awards or expenses submitted by Class Plaintiffs or counsel for Class Plaintiffs; or any allocation of the Fee and Expense Award by Class Lead Counsel. Any such matters will be considered separately from the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements.

20. At or after the Fairness Hearing, the Court shall determine separately whether each Settlement Agreement, the proposed Plan of Distribution, any application for service awards, and

any application for attorneys' fees and/or expenses by counsel for Class Plaintiffs should be finally approved.

21. Each of the Settling Defendants has denied any liability, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind in connection with the allegations in the Action, and as such, neither the Settlement Agreements, nor any of their respective terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with the Settlement Agreements shall be construed as an admission or concession of the truth of any of the allegations in the Action, or of any liability, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind by any of the Settling Defendants.

22. All proceedings in the Action with respect to the Settling Defendants are stayed until further order of the Court, except as may be necessary to implement the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements or comply with the terms thereof. Pending final determination of whether the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements should be approved, each Class Plaintiff and each Class Member, either directly, representatively, or in any other capacity, shall be enjoined from prosecuting in any forum any Released Claim against any of the Released Parties, and agrees and covenants not to sue any of the Released Parties on the basis of any Released Claims or to assist any third party in commencing or maintaining any suit against any Released Party related in any way to any Released Claims.

23. All Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Action concerning the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Classes.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____, 2015

HON. LORNA G. SCHOFIELD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

EXHIBIT 1

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with Bank of America Corporation, Bank of America, N.A., and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Capital Inc.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with BNP Paribas Group, BNP Paribas North America Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., and BNP Prime Brokerage, Inc.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with Citigroup Inc., Citibank, N.A., Citicorp, and Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.

Stipulation and Amended Agreement of Settlement with JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, and RBS Securities Inc.

Stipulation and Amended Agreement of Settlement with UBS AG, UBS Group AG, and UBS Securities LLC

EXHIBIT B

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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IN RE FOREIGN EXCHANGE :
BENCHMARK RATES ANTITRUST : No. 1:13-cv-07789-LGS
LITIGATION :
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**[PROPOSED] ORDER APPROVING
THE PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION AND FORM AND MANNER OF
NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Action¹ is pending before this Court;

WHEREAS, Class Plaintiffs² have entered into and executed Stipulations and Agreements of Settlement that have been attached as Exhibits 1 to 9 of the Declaration of Christopher M. Burke and Michael D. Hausfeld in Support of Class Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement Agreements (ECF No. ___) and listed on Exhibit 1 hereto (each a "Settlement Agreement" and collectively, the "Settlement Agreements") with Bank of America Corporation, Bank of America, N.A., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.; Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Capital Inc.; BNP Paribas Group, BNP Paribas North America Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., and BNP Prime Brokerage, Inc.; Citigroup Inc., Citibank, N.A., Citicorp, and Citigroup Global Markets Inc.; The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co.; HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA)

¹ As defined in the Settlement Agreements, the "Action" means *In re Foreign Exchange Benchmark Rates Antitrust Litigation*, 13 Civ. 7789, which is currently pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and includes all actions filed in or transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and consolidated thereunder and all actions that may be so transferred and consolidated in the future, including: *Taylor v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 1350), *Sterk v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 2705), *Bakizada v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4230), *Teel v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4436), and *Robert Charles Class A, L.P. v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4926).

² As defined in the Settlement Agreements, "Class Plaintiffs" are: Aureus Currency Fund, L.P.; the City of Philadelphia, Board of Pensions and Retirement; Employees' Retirement System of the Government of the Virgin Islands; Employees' Retirement System of Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority; Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association; Haverhill Retirement System; Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; State-Boston Retirement System; Syena Global Emerging Markets Fund, LP; Systrax Corporation; Tiberius OC Fund, Ltd.; United Food and Commercial Workers Union and Participating Food Industry Employers Tri-State Pension Fund; and Value Recovery Fund L.L.C. (collectively, "Direct Class Plaintiffs"); J. Paul Antonello; Marc G. Federighi; Thomas Gramatis; Doug Harvey; Izee Trading Company; John Kerstein; Michael Melissinos; Mark Miller; Robert Miller; Richard Preschern d/b/a Preschern Trading; Peter Rives; Michael J. Smith; Jeffrey Sterk; and Kimberly Sterk (collectively, "Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs").

Inc.; JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, and RBS Securities Inc.; and UBS AG, UBS Group AG, and UBS Securities LLC (collectively, the “Settling Defendants,” and together with Class Plaintiffs, the “Settling Parties”), which, if finally approved by the Court, will result in the settlement of all claims against Settling Defendants;

WHEREAS, on Month XX, 2015, the Court entered an order preliminarily approving the Settlement Agreements and preliminarily certifying the Settlement Classes, subject to further consideration thereof at the Fairness Hearing (the “Preliminary Approval Order”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, Class Plaintiffs have applied to the Court for an Order Approving the Plan of Distribution and Form and Manner of Notice of Settlement Agreements to be sent to members of the Settlement Classes (the “Order”); and

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties have agreed to the entry of this Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All terms in initial capitalization used in this Order shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Settlement Agreements and the Preliminary Approval Order, unless otherwise defined herein.

2. Upon review of the record, the Court finds that the Plan of Distribution, pursuant to which the Claims Administrator shall calculate the claims submitted by Class Members and distribute the Net Settlement Funds to Authorized Claimants, are recommended by highly experienced counsel and the allocation formula falls within the range of possible approval. Therefore, the Plan of Distribution is hereby preliminarily approved, subject to further consideration thereof at the Fairness Hearing described below.

3. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlements with Certain Defendants, Certification of Settlement Classes, and Fairness Hearing (the “Mail Notice”), substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 2, and the Publication Notice, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 3. The Mail Notice and Publication Notice shall advise members of the Settlement Classes that they should monitor the settlement website to be established for this matter, www._____.com (the “Settlement Website”), for additional information relating to the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements.

4. Within XX days after the date of the entry of this Order, Class Lead Counsel shall cause copies of the Mail Notice to begin to be mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to each potential member of the Settlement Classes whose address has been obtained from the Settling Defendants (the “Notice Date”).

5. As soon as practicable after the Notice Date, Class Lead Counsel shall cause to be published the Publication Notice, which the parties intend to be the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and which shall, at a minimum, be published once in *The Wall Street Journal*, once in *Investor’s Business Daily*, once in *FX Week*, once in the national edition of the *Financial Times*, once in the *International New York Times*, once in *The Guardian* (U.K. edition), and once over *PR Newswire*.

6. On or before the Notice Date, Class Lead Counsel shall cause the Mail Notice and Publication Notice to be published on the Settlement Website.

7. Prior to the Fairness Hearing, Class Lead Counsel shall serve and file a sworn statement attesting to the compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 4 through 6 of this Order.

8. The Court finds that the mailing and distribution of the Mail Notice and publication of the Publication Notice constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, including

individual notice to all members of the Settlement Classes who can be identified through reasonable effort, and constitutes valid, due, and sufficient process, complying fully with the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and due process.

9. Any Person who transacted in FX Instruments for the benefit of another Person (a “Beneficial Owner”) during the period between January 1, 2003 and Month XX, 2015 [the date the Preliminary Approval Order was entered] (inclusive) shall be requested to send the Notice to all such Beneficial Owners within ten (10) calendar days after receipt thereof or to send a list of the names and last known addresses of such beneficial owners to the Claims Administrator within ten (10) calendar days of receipt thereof, in which event, the Claims Administrator shall promptly mail the Notice to such Beneficial Owners.

10. All fees, costs, and expenses incurred in identifying and notifying members of the Settlement Classes shall be paid as set forth in the Settlement Agreements. In no event shall any of the Settling Defendants bear any responsibility for such fees, costs, or expenses, except as otherwise provided in the Settlement Agreements. With the object of reducing the costs of Class Notice, Class Lead Counsel shall use their reasonable best efforts to coordinate the provision of Class Notice pertaining to the Settlement Agreements with the provision of notices for any other settlements that may be reached in the Action as of the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order.

11. Any Person falling within the definition of the Settlement Classes may request to be excluded from the Classes (“Request for Exclusion”). A Request for Exclusion must be: (a) in writing, (b) signed by the Person or his, her, or its authorized representative, (c) state the name, address, and phone number of that Person, and (d) include: (i) proof of membership in either the Direct Settlement Class or the Exchange-Only Settlement Class, including documentation evidencing FX Trading during the Class Period; and (ii) a signed statement that “I/we hereby request

that I/we be excluded from the Settlement Classes in the *In re Foreign Exchange Benchmark Rates Antitrust Litigation*.” The request must be mailed to the Claims Administrator and be postmarked no later than fifty (50) days prior to the date set for the Fairness Hearing or any other date set by the Court. Unless the Court orders otherwise, a Request for Exclusion that does not include all of the foregoing information, that does not contain the proper signature, that is sent to an address other than the one designated in the Mail Notice and Publication Notice, or that is not sent within the time specified, shall be invalid, and the Person(s) filing such an invalid request shall be a Class Member and shall be bound by the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements, if approved. All Persons who submit valid and timely Requests for Exclusion in the manner set forth in this paragraph shall be excluded from the Settlement Classes, shall have no rights under the Settlement Agreements, shall not share in the distribution of the Settlement Funds, and shall not be bound by the Settlement Agreements or, if approved, any Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal to be entered thereon approving the same.

12. Class Lead Counsel shall cause to be provided to counsel for the Settling Defendants copies of all Requests for Exclusion, together with all documents and information provided with such Requests, and any written revocation of Requests for Exclusion, within three (3) business days of receipt by Class Lead Counsel of that exclusion request.

13. Any Class Member who has not submitted a Request for Exclusion may appear and show cause, if he, she, or it has any reason why one or more of the settlements of the Action set forth in the Settlement Agreements should not be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, why a Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal should not be entered thereon, why the Plan of Distribution should not be approved, why Class Plaintiffs should not receive a service award, and/or why attorneys’ fees and/or costs and expenses should not be awarded to counsel for Class Plaintiffs; provided, however,

that no Class Member or any other Person shall be heard or entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the settlement(s) set forth in such Settlement Agreement(s), or, if approved, the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal to be entered thereon approving the same, or the order(s) approving the Plan of Distribution and/or awarding attorneys' fees and/or costs and expenses to counsel for Class Plaintiffs, unless: (a) written objections and copies of any papers and briefs are mailed to: Christopher M. Burke, Scott+Scott, Attorneys at Law, LLP, 707 Broadway, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92101; Michael D. Hausfeld, Hausfeld LLP, 1700 K Street, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20006; and Joel M. Cohen, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017, postmarked no later than fifty (50) days prior to the date set for the Fairness Hearing or any other date set by the Court; and (b) copies of said objections, papers, and briefs are filed with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York no later than fifty (50) days prior to the date set for the Fairness Hearing. Any such written objections must include: (a) a notice of intention to appear; (b) proof of membership in either the Direct Settlement Class or the Exchange-Only Settlement Class, including documentation evidencing FX Trading during the Class Period; and (c) the specific grounds for the objection(s) and any reasons why such Person desires to appear and be heard, as well as all documents or writings that such Person desires the Court to consider. Any Person that fails to object in the manner prescribed herein shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its objections and will forever be barred from making any such objections in the Action, including, but not limited to, any objection to: (a) the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the settlements set forth in such Settlement Agreement(s) or the Plan of Distribution; and (b) any award of attorneys' fees and/or costs and expenses to counsel for Class Plaintiffs.

14. Unless the Court orders otherwise, all proof of claim and release forms must be postmarked by or before Month XX, 2015.

15. Any and all distributions to eligible Class Members shall be made pursuant to the Plan of Distribution, as finally approved by the Court, to those Class Members who submit a valid proof of claim and release form. Class Members who wish to participate in the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements must complete and submit a valid proof of claim and release form, in accordance with the instructions contained therein.

16. Any Class Member who does not timely submit a proof of claim and release form within the time provided shall be barred from sharing in the distribution of the proceeds of the Settlement Funds, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, but shall nevertheless be bound by any Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal entered by the Court regarding the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Class Lead Counsel shall have the discretion, but not the obligation, to accept late-submitted claims for processing by the Claims Administrator so long as distribution of the proceeds of Settlement Funds is not materially delayed. Class Lead Counsel shall have no liability for failing to accept any late-submitted claims.

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

18. A hearing (the "Fairness Hearing") shall be held before this Court on ____ __, 201__ at __: __ .m., at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, New York, New York 10007, to determine: (a) whether the settlements of the Action on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement Agreements are fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Classes and should be finally approved by the Court; (b) whether a Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal as provided for in each of the Settlement Agreements should be entered; (c) whether the Plan of Distribution should be

approved; (d) the amount of attorneys' fees and/or costs and expenses that should be awarded to counsel for Class Plaintiffs; (e) the amount of any service awards for Class Plaintiffs; (f) whether the Court should certify the Settlement Classes solely for settlement purposes pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3); and (g) such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

19. All papers in support of the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements and any application for attorneys' fees and/or costs and expenses shall be filed and served no later than XX days prior to the objection deadline, and any reply papers (which may include a response to objections, if any) shall be filed and served XX days prior to the Fairness Hearing.

20. At or after the Fairness Hearing, the Court shall determine separately whether each Settlement Agreement, the Plan of Distribution, any application for service awards, and any application for attorneys' fees and/or expenses by counsel for Class Plaintiffs should be finally approved.

21. The Court reserves the right to adjourn the date of the Fairness Hearing without further notice, and the Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements. To the extent practicable, Class Lead Counsel shall cause the Claims Administrator to promptly cause notice of any Court-ordered changes of schedule or any modifications of deadlines to be published on the Settlement Website. The Court may approve the settlements set forth in the Settlement Agreements or Plan of Distribution, with such modifications as may be agreed to by the Settling Parties, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Classes.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____, 2015

HON. LORNA G. SCHOFIELD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

EXHIBIT 1

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with Bank of America Corporation, Bank of America, N.A., and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Capital Inc.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with BNP Paribas Group, BNP Paribas North America Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., and BNP Prime Brokerage, Inc.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with Citigroup Inc., Citibank, N.A., Citicorp, and Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.

Stipulation and Amended Agreement of Settlement with JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, and RBS Securities Inc.

Stipulation and Amended Agreement of Settlement with UBS AG, UBS Group AG, and UBS Securities LLC

EXHIBIT C

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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IN RE FOREIGN EXCHANGE :
BENCHMARK RATES ANTITRUST : No. 1:13-cv-07789-LGS
LITIGATION :
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**[PROPOSED] FINAL JUDGMENT AND
ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE AS TO
HSBC HOLDINGS PLC, HSBC BANK PLC, HSBC NORTH AMERICA HOLDINGS
INC., HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AND HSBC SECURITIES (USA) INC.**

This matter came before the Court for hearing pursuant to the Court's Order Preliminarily Approving Settlements, Conditionally Certifying the Settlement Classes, and Appointing Class Counsel and Class Representatives for the Settlement Classes dated Month XX, 2015 (ECF No. __) ("Preliminary Approval Order"), Order Approving the Plan of Distribution and Form and Manner of Notice of Settlement Agreements dated Month XX, 2015 (ECF No. __) ("Notice Order"), and on Class Plaintiffs' application for final approval of the settlement set forth in the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement with HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. dated Month XX, 2015 (ECF No. __) (the "Settlement Agreement"). Due and adequate notice having been given to the Settlement Classes as required in the Court's Preliminary Approval Order and Notice Order, the 90-day period provided by the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1715(d), having expired on Month XX, 2015, and the Court having considered all papers filed and proceedings held herein and otherwise being fully informed in the premises and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

1. This Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal as to HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement, and all capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the same meanings as in the Settlement Agreement.

2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action¹ and over all parties to the Settlement Agreement, including all Class Members.

3. The notice provisions of the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1715, have been satisfied.

4. Based on the record before the Court, including the Preliminary Approval Order and Notice Order, the submissions in support of the settlement between Class Plaintiffs,² for themselves individually and on behalf of each Class Member in the Action, and defendants HSBC Holdings PLC, HSBC Bank PLC, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. (“HSBC”), and any objections and responses thereto, the Court finds—solely for purposes of effectuating the settlement—that all

¹ As defined in the Settlement Agreement, the “Action” means *In re Foreign Exchange Benchmark Rates Antitrust Litigation*, 13 Civ. 7789, which is currently pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and includes all actions filed in or transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and consolidated thereunder and all actions that may be so transferred and consolidated in the future, including: *Taylor v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 1350), *Sterk v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 2705), *Bakizada v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4230), *Teel v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4436), and *Robert Charles Class A, L.P. v. Bank of America Corp. et al.* (15 Civ. 4926).

² As defined in the Settlement Agreement, “Class Plaintiffs” are: Aureus Currency Fund, L.P.; the City of Philadelphia, Board of Pensions and Retirement; Employees’ Retirement System of the Government of the Virgin Islands; Employees’ Retirement System of Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority; Fresno County Employees’ Retirement Association; Haverhill Retirement System; Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System; State-Boston Retirement System; Syena Global Emerging Markets Fund, LP; Systrax Corporation; Tiberius OC Fund, Ltd.; United Food and Commercial Workers Union and Participating Food Industry Employers Tri-State Pension Fund; and Value Recovery Fund L.L.C. (collectively, “Direct Class Plaintiffs”); J. Paul Antonello; Marc G. Federighi; Thomas Gramatis; Doug Harvey; Izee Trading Company; John Kerstein; Michael Melissinos; Mark Miller; Robert Miller; Richard Preschern d/b/a Preschern Trading; Peter Rives; Michael J. Smith; Jeffrey Sterk; and Kimberly Sterk (collectively, “Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs”).

requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3) have been satisfied, and hereby certifies solely for settlement purposes the following Settlement Classes:

The Direct Settlement Class: All Persons who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into an FX Instrument directly with a Defendant, a direct or indirect parent, subsidiary, or division of a Defendant, a Released Party, or co-conspirator where such Persons were either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, transacted FX Instruments in the United States or its territories. Specifically excluded from the Direct Settlement Class are Defendants; Released Parties; co-conspirators; the officers, directors, or employees of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator; any entity in which any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator has a controlling interest; any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator and any person acting on their behalf; provided, however, that Investment Vehicles shall not be excluded from the definition of the Direct Settlement Class. Also excluded from the Direct Settlement Class are any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action.

The Exchange-Only Settlement Class: All Persons who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into FX Exchange-Traded Instruments where such Persons were either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, entered into FX Exchange-Traded Instruments on a U.S. exchange. Specifically excluded from the Exchange-Only Settlement Class are Defendants; Released Parties; co-conspirators; the

officers, directors, or employees of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator; any entity in which any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator has a controlling interest; any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant, Released Party, or co-conspirator and any person acting on their behalf; provided, however, that Investment Vehicles shall not be excluded from the definition of the Exchange-Only Settlement Class. Also excluded from the Exchange-Only Settlement Class are: (i) any judicial officer presiding over this action and any member of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this Action; and (ii) any Person who, between January 1, 2003 and the date of the Preliminary Approval Order, entered into an FX Instrument directly with a Defendant, a direct or indirect parent, subsidiary, or division of a Defendant, a Released Party, or co-conspirator, where such Person was either domiciled in the United States or its territories or, if domiciled outside the United States or its territories, transacted FX Instruments in the United States or its territories.

5. The Court finds that the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are satisfied solely for settlement purposes, as follows:

a. Pursuant to Rule 23(a)(1), the Court determines that the members of the Settlement Classes are so numerous that their joinder before the Court would be impracticable;

b. Pursuant to Rule 23(a)(2), the Court determines that Class Plaintiffs have alleged one or more questions of fact or law common to the Settlement Classes;

c. Pursuant to Rule 23(a)(3), the Court determines that Class Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Settlement Classes;

d. Pursuant to Rule 23(a)(4), the Court determines that Class Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Classes;

e. Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3), the Court determines that common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only individual members; and

f. Also pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3), the Court determines that, in connection with and in light of the proposed settlement, a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this Action.

6. Pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and solely for settlement purposes, the following counsel are certified as settlement class counsel for the Settlement Classes:

Christopher M. Burke
Scott+Scott, Attorneys at Law, LLP
707 Broadway, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

Michael D. Hausfeld
Hausfeld LLP
1700 K Street, NY, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20006

7. Direct Class Plaintiffs are certified as class representatives on behalf of the Direct Settlement Class, and Exchange-Only Class Plaintiffs are certified as class representatives on behalf of the Exchange-Only Settlement Class.

8. Pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court hereby grants final approval of the settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement on the basis that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In reaching this conclusion, the Court considered the factors set forth in *City of Detroit v. Grinnell Corp.*, 495 F.2d 448, 463 (2d Cir. 1974), *abrogated on other grounds by Goldberger v. Integrated Res., Inc.*, 209 F.3d 43 (2d Cir. 2000). Moreover, the Court concludes that:

a. the settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement was fairly and honestly negotiated by counsel with significant experience litigating antitrust class actions and is

the result of vigorous arm's-length negotiations undertaken in good faith and with the assistance of Kenneth Feinberg, an experienced and well-regarded mediator of complex cases;

b. the Action is likely to involve contested and serious questions of law and fact, such that the value of an immediate monetary recovery, in conjunction with the value of the cooperation agreement, outweigh the mere possibility of future relief after protracted and expensive litigation;

c. this is a partial settlement of the Action in a multi-defendant antitrust case, meaning that, if the Class Plaintiffs' claims are proven at trial, the other current and future defendants will remain liable for all class damages under principles of joint and several liability, and, as such, the settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement provides a guaranteed cash recovery and other benefits to the Settlement Classes without substantially diminishing the net expected value of the case going forward;

d. success in antitrust cases such as this one is inherently uncertain, and there is no guarantee that continued litigation would yield a superior result; and

e. Class Lead Counsel's judgment that the settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement is fair and reasonable, and the Class Members' reaction to the settlement is entitled to great weight.

9. The Court hereby grants final approval of the Plan of Distribution on the basis that it is fair, reasonable, and adequate.

10. Except as to any individual claim of those Persons (identified in Exhibit 1 hereto) who have validly and timely requested exclusion from the Settlement Classes ("Opt-Outs"), the Action and all claims contained therein, as well as all of the Released Claims, against any of the Released Parties by the Class Plaintiffs, Class Members, and Releasing Parties are hereby

dismissed with prejudice. The Parties are to bear their own costs, except as otherwise provided in the Settlement Agreement.

11. The Opt-Outs have timely and validly requested exclusion from the Settlement Classes and are hereby excluded from the Settlement Classes, not bound by this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal, and may not make any claim or receive any benefit from the settlement, whether monetary or otherwise.

12. Upon the Effective Date, each of the Releasing Parties: (a) shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal, shall have fully, finally, and forever waived, released, relinquished, and discharged (i) all Released Claims against the Released Parties, regardless of whether such Releasing Party executes and delivers a proof of claim and release form, and (ii) any rights to the protections afforded under California Civil Code §1542 and/or any other similar, comparable, or equivalent laws; (b) shall forever be enjoined from prosecuting in any forum any Released Claim against any of the Released Parties; and (c) agrees and covenants not to sue any of the Released Parties on the basis of any Released Claims or to assist any third party in commencing or maintaining any suit against any Released Party related in any way to any Released Claims.

13. This Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal shall not affect, in any way, the right of Class Plaintiffs or Class Members to pursue claims, if any, outside the scope of the Released Claims.

14. Upon the Effective Date, each of the Released Parties: (a) shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal shall have fully, finally, and forever waived, released, relinquished, and discharged (i) Class Plaintiffs, Class Lead Counsel, and each and all Class Members from each and every one of the Settling Defendants'

Claims, and (ii) any rights to the protections afforded under California Civil Code §1542 and/or any other similar, comparable, or equivalent laws; (b) shall forever be enjoined from prosecuting the Settling Defendants' Claims; and (c) agrees and covenants not to sue on the basis of any Settling Defendants' Claims, or to assist any third party in commencing or maintaining any such suit related to any Settling Defendants' Claims.

15. Upon the Effective Date, claims against the Released Parties for contribution or indemnification (however denominated) for all or a portion of any amounts paid in the Action by way of settlement, judgment, or otherwise, are barred.

16. All rights of Class Plaintiffs and Class Members against former, current, or future defendants or co-conspirators other than the Released Parties, or any other Person other than the Released Parties, with respect to any of the Released Claims are specifically reserved by Class Plaintiffs and the Class Members. The purchase, sale, and trading of FX Instruments and FX Exchange-Traded Instruments by HSBC shall remain in the case against the other current or future defendants in the Action as a potential basis for damage claims and may be part of any joint and several liability claims against the former, current, or future defendants in the Action other than the Released Parties, or any other Persons other than the Released Parties.

17. The distribution of the Mail Notice and the publication of the Summary Notice as provided for in the Notice Order constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice to all members of the Settlement Classes who could be identified through reasonable effort, and constitutes valid, due, and sufficient process, complying fully with the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and due process.

18. The Court's determination as to any Fee and Expense Application and/or Plan of Distribution shall in no way disturb or affect this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal and shall be considered separate from this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal.

19. Neither the Settlement Agreement nor the settlement contained therein, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in furtherance of the Settlement Agreement 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 the Released Parties; or (b) is or may be deemed to be or may be used as an admission of, or evidence of, any fault or omission of any of the Released Parties in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal. The Settlement Agreement may be filed in an action to enforce or interpret the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the settlement contained therein, and any other documents executed in connection with the performance of the agreements embodied therein. The Released Parties may file the Settlement Agreement and/or this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal in any action that may be brought against them in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on the principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, full faith and credit, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar, or reduction or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

20. Without affecting the finality of this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal in any way, this Court hereby retains continuing jurisdiction over: (a) implementation of this settlement and any award or distribution of the Settlement Fund, including interest earned thereon; (b) disposition of the Settlement Fund; (c) hearing and determining applications for attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, and service awards to Class Plaintiffs in the Action; and (d) all

Parties hereto for the purpose of construing, enforcing, and administering the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

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

22. In the event that the settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement or the Effective Date does not occur, or in the event that the Settlement Fund, or any portion thereof, is returned to HSBC in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, then this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal shall be rendered null and void to the extent provided by and in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and shall be vacated and, in such event, all orders entered and releases delivered in connection herewith shall be null and void to the extent provided by and in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

23. If the settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement is terminated pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, then the Settlement Agreement (including any amendment(s) thereto) and this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal 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 actions or proceedings by any Person, and each Party shall be restored to his, her, or its respective position as it existed prior to the execution of the Settlement Agreement.

24. Except as otherwise provided herein, in the event the Settlement Agreement is terminated, is vacated, is not approved, or the Effective Date fails to occur for any reason, then the Parties to the Settlement Agreement shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective status in the Action as of the Execution Date, and, except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if the Settlement Agreement and any related orders had

not been entered, and any portion of the Settlement Fund previously paid by or on behalf of HSBC, together with any interest earned thereon (and, if applicable, re-payment of any Fee and Expense Award referred to in paragraph 9(a) of the Settlement Agreement), less any Taxes due, if any, with respect to such income, and less costs of administration and notice actually incurred and paid or payable from the Settlement Fund (not to exceed \$500,000 without the prior approval of the Court) shall be returned to HSBC within ten (10) business days from the date of the event causing such termination. At the request of HSBC's Counsel, the Escrow Agent shall apply for any tax refund owed on the Settlement Fund and pay the proceeds to HSBC.

25. 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 Agreement.

26. There is no just reason for delay in the entry of this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal and immediate entry by the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____

THE HONORABLE LORNA G. SCHOFIELD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE