

## RETENTION AGREEMENT

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney General has decided to investigate and, if after making a determination that litigation may be appropriate, may institute litigation for its potential claims against Equifax Information Services, LLC, Equifax Inc., Experian Information Solutions, Inc., TransUnion, LLC, and TransUnion Corporation (collectively, the national credit reporting agencies or "NCRAs"), which may have engaged in certain unlawful conduct, including, but not limited to, unfair and deceptive trade practices, methods, and acts in their maintenance and disclosure of and communications regarding consumer credit reports and other credit reporting and monitoring services in violation of the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act, Miss. Code Ann. §§ 75-24-1, *et seq.* and, potentially, federal laws.

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney General has determined that the investigation, research, and litigation of the claims may require the expenditure of large sums of money and require the work of numerous lawyers, paralegals, and others who are familiar with the NCRAs' and their potentially wrongful actions and/or inactions and related issues for an extended period of time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney General has further determined that it is in the best interests of the State and its citizens that the State retain attorneys with significant investigative and litigation experience; and

**WHEREAS**, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC is experienced in such investigations and litigation and has consented to represent the State of Mississippi, in association with the Attorney General, respecting the potential claims and pursuant to the terms and conditions hereof.

**IT IS, ACCORDINGLY, AGREED** as follows:

1. The Office of the Attorney General hereby retains Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC ("Law Firm"), and its lawyers, Linda Singer and Michele Keegan, who are hereby designated as Special Assistant Attorneys General, to investigate, research, and file the claims in any appropriate Court or before any appropriate governmental agency.

2. The Attorney General does not relinquish his constitutional or statutory authority or responsibility through this Retention Agreement. The Attorney General has the sole authority to settle this investigation and any litigation on behalf of the State of Mississippi and its citizens, and the Law Firm shall apprise the Attorney General of all settlement offers. The Law Firm shall consult with the Attorney General and obtain his approval on all material matters pertinent to the claims and any litigation arising therefrom, including whether and how to proceed with litigation, which claims to advance, what relief to seek, and whether and on what terms to settle. The Attorney General shall cooperate with the Law Firm and use his best efforts to secure the cooperation of other State agencies. The Attorney General is not required, however, to assign any member of his staff to pursue the claims, but may from time to time afford staff and other support services as the Attorney General deems appropriate. The Attorney General shall designate one or more members of his staff to monitor these claims, who will be available directly to the parties in this matter as needed, and the Law Firm shall keep the Attorney General and his designated staff member(s) fully informed on all matters pertaining to the claims.

3. The Attorney General and the Law Firm both recognize that the claims present numerous factual and legal obstacles, and that no assurance of success on the claims has or can be made.

4. The Attorney General shall maintain responsibility for the public distribution of information concerning this matter. All press inquiries shall be referred to the Attorney General for comment and response.

5. Notwithstanding the potential difficulties, the Law Firm has agreed to represent the State, and the Attorney General hereby agrees that the Law Firm will be compensated for recoveries by the State of Mississippi on the following basis:

A. Recovery of Attorneys' Fees: The Attorney General may request that the court, to the extent permitted by applicable law, award the State and the Law Firm reasonable attorneys' fees.

B. In addition, the Law Firm will be entitled to compensation that, along with any award of attorneys' fees, shall not exceed the amounts specified in the attached Exhibit A.

C. All reasonable and necessary costs of litigation including, but not limited to, court costs, travel, witness fees, consultants, accounting, and expert fees and expenses, as shall be approved by the Attorney General, shall initially be borne entirely by the Law Firm, but shall be reimbursed from any gross recoveries from the pursuit of the claims.

D. The Law Firm shall receive no compensation or reimbursement other than set out above. In the event that no recovery is realized, the Law Firm shall receive no compensation or reimbursement.

6. With the approval of the Attorney General, the Law Firm may associate other attorneys at its own expense and at no cost to the State of Mississippi. Notwithstanding such association of other attorneys, this Retention Agreement is non-assignable and non-transferable, nor are the Law Firm's commitments delegable without the express, written approval of the Attorney General.

7. The Law Firm shall, from the date hereof until not less than four (4) years after this contract expires or is terminated, maintain detailed current records, including documentation of all expenses, disbursements, charges, credits, underlying receipts and invoices, and other financial transactions that concern the providing of attorney services. In addition, the Law Firm shall maintain detailed contemporaneous time records for the attorneys and paralegals working on the matter in increments of no greater than one-tenth (1/10) of an hour, and shall promptly provide these records to the Attorney General upon request.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF  
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
JIM HOOD, ATTORNEY GENERAL

**COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL, PLLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
LINDA SINGER

**Exhibit A**

Twenty-five percent (25%) of any recovery of up to Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00); plus

Twenty percent (20%) of any portion of such recovery between Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) and Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00); plus

Fifteen percent (15%) of any portion of such recovery between Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) and Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00); plus


Ten percent (10%) of any portion of such recovery between Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) and Twenty-five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00); plus

Five percent (5%) of any portion of such recovery exceeding Twenty-five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00).

## DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR CONTINGENCY FEE REPRESENTATION

The Attorney General has determined that use of outside counsel is cost-effective, in the public interest and necessary to investigate and potentially pursue claims against Equifax Information Services, LLC, Equifax Inc., Experian Information Solutions, Inc., TransUnion, LLC, and TransUnion Corporation (collectively, the national credit reporting agencies or "NCRAs"), which may have engaged in certain unlawful conduct, including, but not limited to, unfair and deceptive trade practices, methods, and acts in their maintenance and disclosure of and communications regarding consumer credit reports and other credit reporting and monitoring services in violation of the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act, Miss. Code Ann. §§ 75-24-1, *et seq.* and, potentially, federal laws. Use of outside counsel is necessary because: there does not exist sufficient and appropriate legal and financial resources within the Attorney General's office to handle the matter; the time and labor required necessitates outside counsel; the novelty, complexity, and difficulty of the questions involved are within the expertise of outside counsel, who in fact possessed the knowledge necessary to discover this issue in the first instance, and the skill requisite to perform the attorney services properly prohibit our office from being able efficiently to do it in-house. The geographic area where the attorney services are to be provided is expansive because of the diverse locations of the defendants, their operations, and the witnesses. Outside counsel has the amount and type of experience needed having worked on a number of complex financial consumer protection matters on behalf of state and local governments.

Jim Hood  
Attorney General



By: George W. Neville  
Special Assistant Attorney General