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Lead Counsel for Plaintiff

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

# DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

)

In re AURORA CANNABIS INC. SECURITIES LITIGATION No. 2:19-cv-20588-BRM-JBC

**CLASS ACTION** 

This Document Relates To:

ALL ACTIONS.

DECLARATION OF JAMES E. CECCHI FILED ON BEHALF OF CARELLA BYRNE CECCHI BRODY & AGNELLO, P.C., IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES I, James E. Cecchi, declare as follows:

1. I am a member of the firm of Carella Byrne Cecchi Brody & Agnello, P.C. ("Carella Byrne" or the "Firm"). I submit this declaration in support of the application for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses/charges ("expenses") in connection with services rendered in the above-captioned action (the "Litigation").

2. This Firm is Local counsel of record for plaintiffs Doug Daulton, Francisco Quintana, Matt Golis, Donald S. Parish, and Quang Ma.

3. The information in this declaration regarding the Firm's time and expenses is taken from time and expense reports and supporting documentation prepared and/or maintained by the Firm in the ordinary course of business. I am the partner who oversaw and/or conducted the day-to-day activities in the Litigation and reviewed these reports (and backup documentation where necessary or appropriate) in connection with preparing this declaration. This review aimed to confirm the accuracy of the entries and the necessity for, and reasonableness of, the time and expenses committed to the Litigation. Based on this review, I believe that the time reflected in the Firm's lodestar calculation and the expenses for which payment is sought herein are reasonable and were necessary for the effective and efficient prosecution and resolution of the Litigation.

4. The number of hours spent on the litigation by my Firm is 125.50. A breakdown of the lodestar is provided in Exhibit A. Based on the Firm's current

rates, the lodestar amount for professional time is \$111,292.50. The hourly rates shown in Exhibit A are consistent with those submitted by the Firm in other securities class action litigation. The Firm's rates are set based on periodic analysis of rates charged by firms performing comparable work both on the plaintiff and defense side. Different timekeepers within the same employment category (*e.g.*, partners, associates, paralegals) may have different rates based on many factors, including years of practice, years at the Firm, years in the current position (*e.g.*, years as a partner), relevant experience, relative expertise, and the rates of similarly experienced peers at this Firm or other firms. For personnel whom the Firm no longer employs, the "current rate" used for the lodestar calculation is based on the rate for that person in their final year of employment.

5. My Firm seeks an award of \$718.50 in expenses and charges concerning the prosecution of the Litigation. Those expenses and charges are summarized by category in Exhibit B.

6. The following is additional information regarding certain of these expenses:

(a) Filing, Witness and Other Fees: \$718.50. These expenses have been paid to the Court for filing fees and to obtain copies of court documents for plaintiffs.

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7. The expenses pertaining to this case are reflected in the books and records of this Firm. These books and records are prepared from receipts, expense vouchers, check records, and other documents and are an accurate record of the expenses.

8. The identification and background of my Firm and its partners is attached as Exhibit C.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 23rd day of December 2024, at Roseland, New Jersey.

> /s/James E. Cecchi JAMES E. CECCHI

### EXHIBIT A

### In re Aurora Cannabis Inc. Securities Litigation, No. 2:19-cv-20588-BRM-JBC Carella Byrne Cecchi Brody & Agnello, P.C. Inception through December 5, 2024

NAME		HOURS	RATE	LODESTAR	
Cecchi, James	(P)	11.20	\$1,300.00	\$	14,560.00
Taylor, Lindsey	(P)	22.30	\$975.00	\$	21,742.50
Ecklund, Donald	(P)	34.30	\$1,000.00	\$	34,300.00
Cooper, Kevin	(A)	31.00	\$875.00	\$	27,125.00
Makhail, Mark	(A)	6.20	\$400.00	\$	2,480.00
Steele, Jordan	(A)	9.40	\$750.00	\$	7,050.00
O'Toole, Brian	(A)	4.10	\$600.00	\$	2,460.00
Paralegals					
Caraballo, Luis		1.70	\$225.00	\$	382.50
Houser, Nancy		2.60	\$225.00	\$	585.00
Tempesta, Laura		1.50	\$225.00	\$	337.50
Falduto, Jeff		0.30	\$225.00	\$	67.50
Rago, Mary Ellen		0.40	\$225.00	\$	90.00
Miller, Zach		0.50	\$225.00	\$	112.50
TOTAL		125.50		\$	5111,292.50

(P) Partner

(A) Associate

### **EXHIBIT B**

In re Aurora Cannabis Inc. Securities Litigation, No. 2:19-cv-20588-BRM-JBC Carella Byrne Cecchi Brody & Agnello, P.C. Inception through December 5, 2024

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Filing, Witness, and Other Fees	\$718.50
TOTAL	\$718.50

# EXHIBIT C

# CARELLA BYRNE FIRM RESUME

Case 2:19-cv-20588-BRM-JBC



# **CLASS ACTION RESUME**

Formed in 1976, Carella Byrne is one of the leading law firms in the New Jersey – New York metropolitan area, serving a diverse clientele ranging from small businesses to Fortune 500 corporations. Carella Byrne's class action practice - founded and led by James E. Cecchi - is the preeminent consumer class action firm in the State of New Jersey and across the United States. Mr. Cecchi has held leadership positions in many of the nation's most complex and important consumer class actions effecting consumer rights in the last ten years. The most recent examples, to name a few are: (1) *In re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation;* (2) *In re Takata Airbag Product Defect Litigation;* (3) *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation;* (4); *In re American Medical Collection Agency, Inc., Customer Data Security Breach Litigation;* (5) *In re Mercedes-Benz Emissions Litigation;* (6) *In re Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Antitrust Litigation;* (7) *In re Volkswagen Timing Chain Product Liability Litigation;* (8) *In re Insulin Pricing Litigation.* 

#### **REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS**

- In re: Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2672 (N.D. Cal.) (Hon. Charles R. Breyer) (James Cecchi appointed to Steering Committee and as Settlement Class Counsel; settlement in excess of \$15,000,000,000 for consumer fraud and warranty claims arising from the use of a defeat device to evade U.S. emissions regulations.)
- In re: Takata Airbag Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2599 (S.D. Fla.) (Hon. Frederico A. Moreno) (James Cecchi appointed to Steering Committee and as Settlement Class Counsel; settlement in excess of \$1,500,000,000 for consumer fraud and warranty claims arising from use of defective and dangerous airbags; the case is ongoing as it pertains to second-wave defendants, including Mercedes Benz USA.)
- In re: American Medical Collection Agency, Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation, MDL No. 2904 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Madeline Cox Arleo) (James Cecchi appointed sole Lead Counsel in national Multi-District data breach litigation.)
- In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (Hon. Dan A. Polster) (James Cecchi appointed to Plaintiffs' Executive Committee relating to marketing of opioid drugs. Recent settlements include a proposed \$26 billion settlement with the nation's largest drug distributors and Johnson & Johnson. Recent trial team victories include Track 3 bellwether of \$650.6 million.)
- In re: Mercedes-Benz Emissions Litigation, Civil Action No. 16-cv-881 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Kevin McNulty) (James Cecchi appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class in a case arising out of the alleged use of a defeat device to evade U.S. emissions regulations; settlement with value in excess of \$700,000,000 granted final approval.)

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- In Re: Vytorin/Zetia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 1938 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Dennis M. Cavanaugh); In re Schering-Plough/Enhance Securities Litigation, Civil Action No.: 08-cv-397 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Dennis M. Cavanaugh); In re Merck & Co., Inc. Vytorin/Zetia Securities Litigation, Civil Action No.: 08-cv-2177 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Dennis M. Cavanaugh) (consumer and securities fraud claims arising from marketing and sale of anti-cholesterol drugs Vytorin and Zetia) (Co-Lead Counsel in Consumer Cases which settled for \$41,500,000 and Liaison Counsel in Securities Cases which collectively settled for \$688,000,000.)
- *In re: Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 2687 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Jose L. Linares) (James Cecchi appointed as Lead Counsel and secured a settlement of greater than \$100,000,000.)
- In Re Effexor XR Antitrust Litigation, Civil Action No. 11-cv-5661 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Joel A. Pisano) (claims on behalf of indirect purchasers of brand-name drug alleging that manufacturer obtained patent by fraud and enforced patent by sham litigation to maintain illegal monopoly of brand-name drug. James Cecchi appointed as Chair of Plaintiffs' Indirect Purchaser Executive Committee.)
- *Davis Landscape v. Hertz Equipment Rental*, Civil Action No. 06-cv-3830 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Dennis M. Cavanaugh) (Co-Lead Counsel in settlement valued at over \$50,000,000 on behalf of contested nationwide class asserting claims that HERTZ' loss/damage waiver charges violated the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act because it provides no benefit to customers.)
- In Re: Merck & Co., Inc., Securities, Derivative & "ERISA" Litigation, MDL No. 1658 (D.N.J.) (Hon. Stanley R. Chesler) (securities fraud claims arising from Merck's failure to disclose problems with commercial viability of anti-pain drug Vioxx which settled for more than \$1,000,000,000.)
- In re: Mercedes-Benz Tele-Aid Contract Litigation, MDL No. 1914 (Hon. Dickson R. Debevoise) (Co-Lead Counsel in \$40,000,000 settlement of consumer fraud claims arising from Mercedes' failure to notify Tele-Aid customers of mandated change from analog to digital system, and charging customers to replace system Mercedes knew would be obsolete.)