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5	atswsmician awornice.com		Superior Court of California County of Alameda
5	Dov M. Grunschlag (SB No. 42040)		06/11/2024
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14	Attorneys for Petitioners and Class		
14	SUPERIOR	R COURT OF THE STATE OF (CALIFORNIA
15		COUNTY OF ALAMEDA	
16			
10	Donna Ventura, Gregory M. Bianch		No. RG 10530492
17	Calvin Wood and Sharon Wood, on	behalf of Themselves	
10	and Others Similarly Situated, ¹		EX PARTE APPLICATION AND
18		Petitioners,	STIPULATION RE 2023 ANNUAL
19		,	REPORT OF SETTLEMENT
	V.		ADMINISTRATOR RE
20	Regents of University of California,		IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL
21	megents or our cross, or camerina,		APPROVAL ORDER & ORDER
		Respondents.	SETTING DATE FOR HEARING
22			Reservation ID: 439207405419
23			Date: 7/16/24
			Time: 1:30 PM
24			Dept: 21
25			Hon. Noel Wise
26	1		
27	¹ This case was filed as Requa v. 23, 2013, the case then proceeded as We		020. After Joe Requa withdrew on December
	2022, after which the case proceeded as		
28	Alameda Superior Court Case No. RG 105		c. ca.

Ventura v. Regents of Univ. of California, No. RG 10530492

WHEREAS, the Final Approval Order and Judgment incorporates the Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and Release (Settlement Agreement) and provides: "each and every term and provision thereof, shall be deemed incorporated herein as if explicitly set forth herein and shall have the full force and effect of an order of this Court," Final Approval Order and Judgment (4/10/20) ("Final Approval Order"), ¶ 10; and

WHEREAS, this Court has continuing jurisdiction over the implementation of the Final Approval Order, see Final Approval Order, ¶ 30; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement provides for Annual Reports by the Court Monitor (first three years) and then by the Settlement Administrator (next four years), Settlement Agreement, ¶ V-E-2, p. 26; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2024, this Court appointed Hon. James R. Lambden (Ret.) to act as Court Monitor after Hon. Maria-Elena James (Ret.) was unable to continue; and

WHEREAS, Blake Deady, on behalf of the Settlement Administrator ARCHER Systems, LLC, has completed the 2023 Annual Report, and Court Monitor James R. Lambden has approved the Report, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, Class Counsel and the Court Monitor wish to present the 2023 Annual Report to the Court for approval,

IT IS STIPULATED that the Court may set a date and time for the Court to receive and approve the 2023 Annual Report.

Counsel for Parties

Date: <u>6/6/24</u>

Date: <u>6 /6/24</u>

Andrew Thomas Sinclair Class Counsel

Kathleen V. Fisher

Class Counsel

1 2	Date: June 5, WY Dov M. Grunschlag Class Counsel
3	Date:
4	
5	Jennifer Romano Attorney for The Regents of
6	the University of California
7	Settlement Administrator
8	I concur with the above stipulation and request to set a hearing date.
9	
10	Date:
	Blake Deady
11	Settlement Administrator
12	ARCHER Systems
13	Court Monitor
14	Court Monitor
15	I concur with the above stipulation and request to set a hearing date.
16	Date:
17	Hon. James R. Lambden
18	Court Monitor
19	
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1	Date: Dov M. Grunschlag
2	Class Counsel
3	Date: 6-5-24
4	Jennifer Romano
5	Attorney for The Regents of
6	the University of California
7	Settlement Administrator
8	I concur with the above stipulation and request to set a hearing date.
9	Date:
10	Blake Deady
11	Settlement Administrator
12	ARCHER Systems
13	
14	Court Monitor
15	I concur with the above stipulation and request to set a hearing date.
16	Date:
17	
18	Hon. James R. Lambden Court Monitor
19	
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1	Date:	Doy M. Crussashlas
2		Dov M. Grunschlag Class Counsel
3	Date:	
4	Date.	
		Jennifer Romano
5		Attorney for The Regents of the University of California
6		
7	Sett	lement Administrator
8	I concur with the above stipulation and r	equest to set a hearing date.
9	Date: June 5, 2024	
10	Date. <u>Same 5, 25</u>	l per
11		Blake Deady
		Settlement Administrator ARCHER Systems
12		
13		Court Monitor
14		Court Monitor
15	I concur with the above stipulation and r	equest to set a hearing date.
16	Date: <u>June</u> 7, 2024	James Landele
17		James Samble Hon. James R. Lambden
18		Court Monitor
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Pursuant to the Parties' Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and Release ("Settlement Agreement"), and in particular, V.E.3. Reporting by the Settlement Administrator (Year Four to Seven),

Starting year four following the Effective Date, the Settlement Administrator will take over the role of providing an annual report to the Court by March 1. The reports by the Settlement Administrator shall address the same matters and follow the same procedures as those by the Court Monitor. The cost of the annual reports by the Settlement Administrator shall come out of the Settlement Fund.

As required, the Settlement Administrator, ARCHER Systems, LLC ("ARCHER"), provided a draft copy of this report for comment to The Regents, Class Counsel, who forwarded the same to Petitioners / Class Representatives, and the Court Monitor, the Honorable James Lambden. Those comments are incorporated herein. *See infra* Sections IV, V, and VII, respectively.

I. <u>STATUS OF BENEFITS PROVIDED BY LLNS (OR SUCCESSOR CONTRACTOR)</u>

For calendar year 2023, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC ("LLNS"), provided health and welfare benefits to Eligible Class Members who timely enrolled. Similarly, LLNS commenced Open Enrollment for Eligible Class Members on October 15, 2023 (Via Benefits) and October 23, 2023 (Empyrean), for health and welfare benefits, coverages, and options for 2024. The 2024 Open Enrollment Retiree Guide was confidentially provided by counsel for The Regents to ARCHER on October 13, 2023, by secure electronic mail. On or about December 27, 2023, counsel for The Regents produced spreadsheets identifying health plan elections by living Class Members for 2024, in addition to, information identifying Class Members who passed away in 2023. These spreadsheets were delivered by secure electronic mail to ARCHER.

Subsequent thereto, ARCHER included a five (5) page informational guide regarding the Settlement Supplement on the settlement website. This guide provided Class Members with information related to Settlement Supplement eligibility by enrolling in a LLNS-sponsored medical plan, help with questions, considerations for Medicare-eligible and non-Medicare eligible Class Members alike, and Settlement Supplement availability. Additionally, the informational guide announced that the 2024

Settlement Supplement increased 7.00% over the 2023 Supplement and included the amount of the Settlement Supplement by plan option for 2024.

II. STATUS OF UC'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SETTLEMENT FUND¹

Per Section V.A.1, The Regents will pay \$80,000,000 to create the Settlement Fund. Section V.A.2. sets forth The Regents' Payment Schedule.

> Fourth Payment: Three years after the Effective Date, The Regents will make a further payment of \$10 million. The Regents satisfied this obligation on April 10, 2023, by wire to the 26 C.F.R. 1.468B-1 LLNL Retiree OSF.

Attorneys' Fees and Costs were addressed in Section XII of the Parties' Settlement Agreement. The Regents elected to pay Attorneys' Fees and Expenses over time. At the request of Class Counsel, ARCHER established a sub-account under the LLNL Retiree Qualified Settlement Fund, entitled LLNL Retiree Settlement Attorneys' Fees. The Fund Administrator, ARCHER, segregated the Fee and Expense payment into the sub-account. The Regents previously satisfied all Fee and Expense obligations as of July 8, 2022.

A summary table of The Regent's current contributions to the LLNL Retiree QSF can be found in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1 - UC'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SETTLEMENT FUND			
DATE	DATE DIRECTION		
January 3, 2020	LLNL Retiree QSF	\$500,000.00	
May 11, 2020	LLNL Retiree QSF	\$19,000,000.00	
July 9, 2020	July 9, 2020 LLNL Retiree Settlement Attorneys' Fees Sub-Account		
April 9, 2021 LLNL Retiree QSF July 8, 2021 LLNL Retiree Settlement Attorneys' Fees Sub-Account April 8, 2022 LLNL Retiree QSF		\$15,000,000.00	
		\$5,000,000.00	
		\$15,000,000.00	
July 8, 2022	July 8, 2022 LLNL Retiree Settlement Attorneys' Fees Sub-Account		
April 10, 2023	April 10, 2023 LLNL Retiree QSF		
April 10, 2024	LLNL Retiree QSF	\$10,000,000.00	

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¹ Settlement Funds are subsequently transferred to a Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association ("VEBA") designated as the "University of California Livermore Retirees Health Insurance Trust."

Pursuant to the payment schedule set forth in Sections V.A.1.2. of the Parties' Settlement Agreement, The Regents have fully and timely funded \$65 million of \$80 million to create the Settlement Fund. In accordance with the Parties' Settlement Agreement, five years after the Effective Date, The Regents will make a further payment of \$10 million. The "Sixth Payment" will become due on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Six years after the Effective Date, The Regents will make a further payment of \$5 million. The "Seventh Payment" will become due on Friday, April 10, 2026.

III. STATUS OF PAYMENTS TO CLASS MEMBERS

See infra Table 2 for a summary of Class participation and payments to Class Members.

A. \$1,000 Initial Payments

As of March 12, 2024, ARCHER has received 7,815 Class Member Data Forms from the approximate 8,904 potential Class Members or their successors-in-interest or personal representatives (excluding those individuals who previously opted out of the class during the pendency of the litigation or those who have declined to participate in the settlement program subsequent to the Effective Date). This reflects a participation rate of **87.8%**. Now and then, ARCHER will receive a Class Member Data Form from previously nonresponsive Class Members or their personal representative(s). ARCHER has mailed \$1,000 Initial Payment checks to **7,769** Class Members or their successors-in-interest / personal representatives.

The inconsistency between the sum of Class Member Data Forms received by the Settlement Administrator (7,815) and the number of \$1,000 Initial Payments made to Class Members or their successors-in-interest / personal representatives (7,769) is the result of two principal issues: (1) the Class Member or successor-in-interest / personal representative has elected to forego receiving the payment, thus declining to participate and opting out of the settlement process; or (2) the Class Member's successor-in-interest / personal representative has failed to provide ARCHER with additional documentary information to confirm the personal representative's qualification to receive the payment (e.g., death certificate identifying next-of-kin, birth certificate demonstrating familial relationship, or estate documents satisfying the terms and conditions of the Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and

Release—the Settlement Administrator will take reasonable steps to verify the identity of the personal representative or successor-in-interest before sending any payment.²

B. Past Damage Payments

Approximately \$11,000,000 will be paid in Past Damages Payments to eligible Class Members and/or their heirs, such that the Past Damages Payments plus the Initial \$1,000 Payment will equal \$20,000,000.

See ¶ 3, Schedule A of Stipulation of Class Action Settlement Agreement and Release.

ARCHER has tendered Past Damages Payments to **2,368** eligible Class Members or their successors-in-interest / personal representatives.

As of February 28, 2024, ARCHER has distributed \$18,010,290.57 in Damages Payments (Initial \$1,000 Payments and Past Damages Payments) to eligible Class Members or their personal representatives / successors-in-interest.

As to the balance of unclaimed funds from the \$1,000 Initial Payment(s) and Past Damages Payment(s), the Settlement Administrator shall cause to be transferred to the Supplemental Payment for the benefit of living class members upon the conclusion of ARCHER's efforts to reissue stale checks and complete all outstanding payments. *See* Ex Parte Application re Closing Class, Disposition of Unclaimed Settlement Funds, Release of Attorneys' Fees, and Order, July 20, 2021. After the entry of the Court's Order of July 20, 2021, ARCHER held discussions with Petitioners and Class Counsel regarding Class Members who submitted a Class Member Data Form *after* April 10, 2022. Upon recommendations and directions of Petitioners, the Livermore Class Action Settlement Administration and Education Fund, Inc. ("LCASE") Board of Directors, Class Counsel, and counsel to LCASE, with agreement by the Settlement Administrator, Class Members who submitted a Class Member Data Form after April 10, 2022, would remain eligible to receive their \$1,000 Initial Payment(s) and Past Damages Payment(s) (*if applicable*) for good cause shown.

ARCHER has tendered 348 \$1,000 Initial Payment(s) and 254 Past Damages Payment(s) post April 10, 2022. However, many of these payments were issued to Class Members or their personal

² See Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and Release, V.A.12 (i.—vi.).

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representatives / successors-in-interest who had submitted a Class Member Data Form prior to April 10, 2022, but payment was delayed as personal representatives gathered the necessary documentation to satisfy the Settlement Administrator's verification standards. Moreover, many payments were reissued for stale checks that had been voided or cancelled by ARCHER because previous payments returned as undeliverable, the check was simply never negotiated, or the check payment was lost. While not necessarily atypical in a settlement program of this size, the payment reissue process for the Settlement Administrator has been a bit ambitious. This is likely the result of several factors including the number of deceased Class Members and the age of the Class.

TABLE 2 - CLASS PARTICIPATION & DAMAGES PAYMENTS TO CLASS MEMBERS		
OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES		
PROSPECTIVE CLASS MEMBERS	8,904	
CLASS MEMBER DATA FORMS RECEIVED BY SETTLEMENT	7,815	
ADMINISTRATOR	7,013	
CLASS PARTICIPATION RATE	87.8%	
TOTAL DAMAGES PAYMENTS AVAILABLE TO CLASS	\$20,000,000.00	
TOTAL \$1,000 INITIAL PAYMENTS (7,769)	\$7,769,000.00	
TOTAL PAST DAMAGES PAYMENTS	\$10,241,290.57	
TOTAL DAMAGES PAYMENTS MADE TO CLASS	\$18,010,290.57	
BALANCE OF DAMAGES PAYMENTS TO CLASS	\$1,989,709.43	
\$1,000 INITIAL PAYMENTS MADE AFTER APRIL 10, 2022	\$348,000.00	
PAST DAMAGES PAYMENTS MADE AFTER APRIL 10, 2022	\$690,943.71	

Despite a near four-year effort to issue damages payments to Class Members or their personal representatives / successors-in-interest, alas, there remains work to be done. Current outstanding damages checks total \$29,922.99. In addition, damages payments in the amount of \$163,379.87 associated with 72 Class Members require further attempts by the Settlement Administrator to reissue previous distributions that have since been voided by ARCHER because the check disbursements have become exceedingly stale-dated. ARCHER is pending receipt of qualifying personal representative documentation for seven (7) deceased Class Members for which the Settlement Administrator has received a completed Class Member Data Form.

Subject to further discussions with the Court Monitor, Petitioners, LCASE, and Counsel, ARCHER shall propose reserving known outstanding \$1,000 Initial and Past Damages payments and thereupon "allocate unclaimed funds from the \$1,000 Initial Payment(s) and Past Damages Payment(s) to the Supplemental Payment for the benefit of living class members" by July 31, 2024, in accordance with the Ex Parte Application re Closing Class, Disposition of Unclaimed Settlement Funds, Release of Attorney's Fees, and Order entered July 20, 2021. It should be emphasized, while on deposit in the QSF, these funds are accruing interest at a current annual percentage yield of 4.6025%.

C. Supplemental Payments

As characterized in the Parties' Settlement Agreement, section V.A.3, in addition to costs of administration, the Initial \$1,000 Payments, and Past Damages, "Settlement Funds will be used to provide annual payments through the VEBA to Policy Holders going forward to provide a supplement to benefits provided by LLNS (or a Successor Contractor) for health care coverage or any benefit permissible under IRC§ 50l(c)(9) ("Supplemental Payments")."

Livermore Class Action Settlement Administration and Education Fund, Inc., the employee organization which formed the VEBA, serves as the Plan Sponsor and Plan Administrator for the Livermore Class Action Settlement Administration and Education Fund, Inc., Retiree Health Reimbursement Arrangement ("LCASE HRA").

Unlike the Initial \$1,000 Initial and Past Damages Payments, the Supplemental Payment is available *only to living, eligible* Class Members who submit requests for reimbursement to Via Benefits Insurance Services. Eligibility is determined by those Class Members who elect medical coverage as of the start of the plan year under one of the LLNS-sponsored plans.

For calendar year 2023, the LCASE HRA Settlement Supplement for participating, eligible Class Members equaled \$3,285,491. Over the course of the year, \$1,660,526 was reimbursed to Class members for premium costs and eligible expenses as defined by \$213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. Since inception, the LCASE HRA has reimbursed more than \$5,221,751 to Class Members and that number continues to increase daily. While reimbursements paid to Class Members or plan participants between years one and two of the LCASE HRA were approximately fifty percent (50%) of allocated

funds, the *participation* of eligible Class Members with access to the LCASE HRA is **92.0%**. It is expected that as premiums continue to rise, Class Members will utilize plan reimbursements at a higher rate.

To summarize, at least **3,384** Class members have utilized the LCASE HRA Settlement Supplement, which has reimbursed more than **\$5,221,751** in eligible expenses to plan participants.

To remind and encourage plan participants to access their HRA funds for eligible expenses, twice yearly in the spring and fall, typically February and September, Via Benefits mails a "Balance Reminder" letter to any plan participant who has had no payment activity in the preceding 90 days.

Together with the Settlement Administrator's retained actuarial and employee benefits experts, Phillips Consulting Partners, LLC ("Phillips"), ARCHER determined that Extend Health, LLC, d/b/a Via Benefits Insurance Services, remains best positioned to provide recordkeeping and administrative services for the Livermore Class Action Settlement Administration and Education Fund, Inc., Retiree Health Reimbursement Arrangement for calendar year 2024. The company is owned by human resources consulting firm Willis Towers Watson ("WTW").

Via Benefits has been and continues to be promptly responsive engaging a large interdisciplinary team to address the needs and requests of the Settlement Administrator and its benefits experts. In conjunction with their experience in delivery with LLNS and the Class Member retiree population, WTW/Via Benefits continues to be the Settlement Administrator's preferred partner with a team of implementation experts, data analysts, retiree plan specialists, operations staff, and in-house legal counsel.

³ The Settlement Administrator's Operative Class List ("OCL") identifies 9,046 Class Members. Of that group, 3,921 have died, and 1,227 have never submitted a Class Member Data Form (and of this group, only 358 appear to be alive). An estimate of the eligible class for 2021 was 5,006 Members with 4,464 Members participating (89.2%). In 2022, there were 4,912 Members eligible with 4,256 participating (86.6%). For 2023 there are 4,794 eligible Members with 4,493 participating (93.7%). For 2024 there are 4,696 eligible Members with 4,320 participating (92.0%). Eligible Members were estimated by taking the total OCL, excluding Members who have not returned a CMDF, Members who died, and Member dependents over the age of 26 (ineligible). It should be noted that if a plan participant does not submit claims for reimbursement, any remaining HRA Supplement rolls over into the following year and is available along with any future Supplement allocations.

Working with Phillips, the Settlement Administrator will continue to evaluate the performance of WTW/Via Benefits in its delivery of services and administration of the HRA, which was funded February 21, 2024. For calendar year 2024, the LCASE HRA Settlement Supplement for participating, eligible Class Members amounts to \$3,136,495. Since inception, the LCASE HRA has provided Class Members with \$12,562,414 in available Supplemental Payments. Additional comments related to plan participant experience follows:

- The LCASE HRA provides an option to allow plan participants to request recurring reimbursements by submitting documentation at the beginning of each year. Via Benefits will reimburse the premium shown each month until funds are exhausted. The claim form has a barcode, which is specific to each member. Class Members may download their individual form from the LCASE HRA website or call Via Benefits and have a representative send it by mail.
- The Via Benefits Reimbursement Guide provides the details for how to submit claims, including by phone and by mail—

 (https://app.viabenefits.com/static/cdn/documents/website/lcase/991009-200526FundingGuide-LCASE-1.pdf). Anticipating the common need for assistance, this guide also advises that Class Members may assign an authorized representative to manage issues, claims, and related matters. This assignment can be completed by telephone or mail. Funds also remain available for reimbursement for six (6) months following a participant's death.
- Remaining individual Class Member HRA funds from prior years will roll forward to pay expenses if current plan year contributions are exhausted. Funds remain in the allocated year unless needed to pay expenses in future years. There is no plan year expense submission deadline. The plan year is determined by the date of service not the date paid. Reimbursement for prior year expenses is permitted if funds for that year remain available.
- Via Benefits determines reimbursement amounts based upon the Class Member's documentation to avoid duplicate payments for the same expense. A Class Member may not request a reimbursement for more or less than the amount indicated in Class Member's submitted documentation.

In conjunction with ARCHER, Phillips is currently in discussions with LCASE to conduct inperson meetings with LCASE HRA plan participants in Livermore, California in the coming weeks to survey plan participant experience and challenges with utilization and navigating reimbursement requirements through the LCASE HRA. Upon the conclusion of these meetings, Phillips will prepare an

executive summary and proposal for the Settlement Administrator and LCASE to engage a full-time benefits manager to perform Class Member outreach, counseling, and support to LCASE HRA plan participants to ensure the forward-looking objectives of this class settlement.

D. VEBA Trust (University of California Livermore Retirees Health Insurance Trust)

At December 31, 2023, the VEBA's investments included equity mutual funds diversified between domestic and foreign securities and among companies with small, mid, and large capitalization. At December 31, 2023, the VEBA also held fixed income mutual funds diversified by credit type and maturity and individual bonds diversified by maturity and issuer. At December 31, 2023, the VEBA's investments were allocated 4.34% to money market mutual funds, 45.52% to equities, and 50.14% to fixed income. In 2023 the VEBA received dividends and interest on VEBA investments of \$900,592.48 and additionally earned \$144,088.66 of accrued income. During 2023, the VEBA's investment portfolio gained 8.45% net of investment management fees.

Stated above, the 2023 investment gains are calculated as net of investment management fees. Argent Trust Company was hired to invest VEBA assets and has charged a modest fee for that particular service. That fee for 2023 was \$44,028.22. But at the start of Argent's service as trustee, it was hired to perform a wide variety of other services for the VEBA completely unrelated to the investment of VEBA assets, and Argent has charged a fixed annual fee for those unrelated services. They have included holding VEBA assets in trust; making monthly distributions from the VEBA; maintaining records for recording contributions to the VEBA, investment gains and losses and distributions from the VEBA; preparing detailed VEBA trust statements, three quarterly and one annually; consulting with the VEBA's actuary throughout the year on actual assumptions to use in determining VEBA funding and the amount of distributions from the VEBA; consulting with the VEBA's outside legal counsel and others on various legal issues, including those dealing with government reporting and disclosure issues for the health reimbursement account (HRA) and the VEBA; preparing financial reports for the Settlement Administrator upon request; assisting and overseeing the VEBA auditor's filings with the Internal Revenue Service; and making monthly distributions to Willis Towers Watson which is the paying agent for the HRA. Because all of these services have nothing to do with Argent's investment of

VEBA assets, Argent has not included the separate fixed fee paid to Argent for performing them in the calculation of the VEBA's investment performance net of investment management fees.

The VEBA balance as of December 31, 2022, was \$19,965,649.43. The VEBA balance as of December 31, 2023, was \$26,443,060.88. The difference between the two amounts is attributable to: (1) contributions to the VEBA from the LLNL Retiree QSF of \$7,250,000; (2) payments made to or for the benefit of the VEBA beneficiaries for retiree health care in the amount of \$2,262,301.25 (LCASE HRA contributions); (3) the VEBA's payment of Argent's trustee management fees in the aggregate amount of \$344,028.22; and (4) net gains and income on the investments as described in Table 5 below. Gains were caused by increases in equity valuations as fears of a recession caused by inflation and the increases in short term interest rates by the Federal Reserve subsided. Income on investments was earned from interest payments on bonds and dividend payments on equities. During 2023, \$2,000,000 was transferred to a sub-account within the VEBA to facilitate investment in an individual equity strategy.

The VEBA's investment portfolio continues to benefit from higher interest rates as short-term cash investments earn yields in excess of 5% and additional investments in fixed income securities were made during the year at yields in excess of those originally projected. The VEBA benefited from continued weakness in equity prices through the first three quarters of the year as approximately half of the \$7,250,000 contributions to the VEBA during the year were invested in equity securities at lower attractive prices.

TABLE 3 - VEBA TRUST LCASE HRA CONTRIBUTIONS			
DATE	DIRECTION	AMOUNT	
March 2, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$817,383.67	
April 4, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$285,838.25	
May 2, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$134,458.16	
June 2, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$140,064.66	
July 5, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$135,984.41	
August 2, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$94,561.87	
September 5, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$117,533.21	
October 4, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$125,435.04	

	TOTAL	\$2,262,301.25
December 4, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$166,623.31
November 2, 2023	PAID VIA WIRE ACCLARIS INC HRA	\$244,418.67

TABLE 4 - VEBA TRUSTEE FEES 2023			
DATE	AMOUNT		
December 2022	\$28,311.38		
January 2023	\$28,421.51		
February 2023	\$28,366.77		
March 2023	\$28,232.18		
April 2023	\$28,177.40		
May 2023	\$28,093.14		
June 2023	\$28,132.13		
July 2023	\$29,379.13		
August 2023	\$29,323.81		
September 2023	\$29,222.31		
October 2023	\$29,123.31		
November 2023	\$29,245.15		
TOTAL	\$344,028.22		

TABLE 5 - VEBA TRUST 2023 ANNUAL SUMMARY	
DATE	AMOUNT
MARKET VALUE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023	\$19,965,649.43
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$7,250,000.00
DIVIDENDS	\$431,159.88
INTEREST	\$469,432.60
LESS BEGINNING ACCRUED INCOME	(\$82,775.07)
ACCRUED INCOME	\$144,088.66
TRANSFERS WITHIN TRUST	\$2,000,000.00
REALIZED GAIN OR LOSS	(\$274,335.08)
UNREALIZED GAIN OR LOSS	\$1,206,698.33
TRUSTEE/CUSTODIAN FEES (See infra Table 6 for historical)	(\$344,028.22)
SCHEDULE OF WIRE TRANSFERS	(\$2,262,301.25)
MISC. DISBURSEMENTS & REDUCTIONS (See infra Table 7)	(\$60,339.50)
TRANSFERS WITHIN TRUST	(\$2,000,000.00)
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS AND REDUCTIONS	(\$188.90)
TOTAL	\$26,443,060.88

TABLE 6 - VEBA TRUSTEE / CUSTODIAN FEES - HISTORICAL				
FEE TYPE 2021 2022 2023				
Argent Fixed Monthly Trustee Fee (\$25,000/month/year)	\$100,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	
Argent Variable Monthly Investment Fee (Total Per Annum)	\$5,509.48	\$32,417.58	\$44,028.22	

TABLE 7 - VEBA TRUST MISC. DISBURSEMENTS & REDUCTIONS			
DATE	DIRECTION	AMOUNT	
	PAID VIA CHECK WITHUM SMITH+BROWN PC		
April 10, 2023	CLIENT #9109235 INV 1031646,1024735,1012935	\$36,082.00	
	INV 1000501, 988223, 977396		
September 21,	PAID VIA CHECK WITHUM SMITH+BROWN PC	¢4.001.00	
2023	CLIENT #9109235 INV 1137762	\$4,981.00	
October 16, 2023	PAID VIA CHECK WITHUM SMITH+BROWN PC	\$3,406.00	
October 19, 2023 PAID VIA CHECK WITHUM SMITH+BROWN PC		\$8,783.00	
November 20,	PAID VIA CHECK WITHUM SMITH+BROWN PC	¢7.007.50	
2023	CLIENT #9109235 INV 1166419	\$7,087.50	
	\$60,339.50		

Subject to the limited investment opportunities available to the QSF Administrator, the VEBA Trustee, Settlement Administrator, and Phillips will continue to review the VEBA's investment performance and broader market conditions to determine if future settlement fund contributions should remain within the QSF.

IV. THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COMMENTS

The Regents were provided with a draft of this Annual Report and provided no additions or comments since the contents of this Annual Report are outside of The Regents' purview.

V. <u>CLASS COUNSEL COMMENTS</u>

Class Counsel ("Counsel") circulated a draft Annual Report provided by ARCHER and made suggestions and comments on the draft.

A. Class Member Participation in Supplemental Payments.

Based on comments from the LCASE Board members (which includes Class Representatives), Counsel notes that the primary focus of the Board and Counsel over the last several months has been to increase the participation rate in the Supplemental Payment. Available data from Phillips Consulting indicates the following as of 12/31/23:

	Summary of Living Class Members & Supplement Payment		
1	Initial class size after opt-outs (living & deceased) as of settlement (12/20/19)	9,046	
2	Living class members (12/31/23)	5,125	
3	Living class members who returned CMDF (12/31/23)	4,767	93%
4	Living class members who have not returned CMDF (12/31/23)	358	7%
5	Living class members who retuned CMDF and have access to the Supplemental Payment (12/31/23)	4,320	91%
6	Living class members who returned CMDF and have access to but are not accessing the Supp. Payment (12/31/23)	447	9%
7	Living class members who have not returned CMDF and are not accessing Supplement Payment (12/31/23)	805	17%

For the Living class members who *have* returned a CMDF and <u>are</u> accessing the Supplemental Payment, all have elected a valid LLNS health care plan. Living class members who have <u>not</u> returned a CMDF and/or have *not* elected coverage under an LLNS health care plan, are not receiving the Supplemental Payment. Electing a LLNS health care plan is required to access the Supplemental Payment. Living class members who submit a CMDF and elect coverage under a valid LLNS health plan in the future will qualify for the Supplemental Payment on a going forward basis. (There are class members who have not submitted a CMDF but do have an LLNS health care plan; these class members do not have access to the Supplemental Payment.)

LCASE and Counsel suggest focusing on living class members who have not returned a Class Member Data Form (358) and those who have returned a CMDF but are not accessing the Supplement Payment (447).

Although it is possible that, as "premiums continue to rise, Class Members will utilize plan reimbursements at a higher rate," Report, p. 7, it is also possible that Class Members are not requesting reimbursement due to frustration with the reimbursement process; or that both are occurring. LCASE and Counsel are hopeful that ARCHER and Phillips Consulting will be able to provide more

information, and that more class members can be encouraged to fully participate in the Supplemental

B. Improving Customer Service.

Counsel and LCASE are encourage by reports from the Settlement Administrator that "Via Benefits has been and continues to be promptly responsive engaging a large interdisciplinary team to address the needs and requests of the Settlement Administrator and its benefits experts," Report, p. 6, as well as reports of biweekly meeting between ARCHER and Via Benefits to address problem areas. LCASE board members have received anecdotal reports from class members about frustrations with the reimbursement process which Via Benefits administers and are hopeful that increased Benefit Counselor services will also address any ongoing concerns. (LCASE plans to forward a summary of their own experience and that of other class members to ARCHER and Phillips Consulting.).

LCASE and Counsel understand Phillips Consulting is working on a proposal to arrange inperson meetings with class members in Livermore, California "to survey plan participant experience and
challenges with utilization and navigating reimbursement requirements through the LCASE HRA."

LCASE also looks forward to more discussion of an idea already discussed with ARCHER and Phillips

Consulting -- hiring one or more professionals along the lines of "patient advocates" – before
proceeding with in-person interviews.

Counsel notes that, although LCASE board members continue to receive anecdotal reports of frustration with the reimbursement process, all reports to Counsel regarding services provided by ARCHER and Phillips Consulting have been satisfactory or better.

Counsel and LCASE would like to see a proposal to create a "safe place" where class members can seek and receive prompt and competent assistance *at any time* they are experiencing difficulties or frustrations with Via Benefits, Empyrean or LLNS. Counsel appreciate ARCHER and Phillips

Consulting pointing out that it is not realistic to expect frustrations inherent in the health care system – especially those over which Via Benefits, Empyrean and LLNS have no control – to solved. However, LCASE and Counsel are hopeful that improvements can be made in providing full and prompt access to the (tax-deductible) Supplement Payment for all eligible class members.

C. Information re Health Care Plans (Open Enrollment).

Counsel and LCASE want to ensure that the rates for health care plans are available from Via Benefits, Empyrean and LLNS *prior to* Open Enrollment. There were complaints from class representatives and others that rates were not readily available prior to Open Enrollment in the fall of 2023. Counsel and LCASE are aware that ARCHER and Phillips Consulting do not have control over when Via Benefits, Empyrean or LLNS make rates available but encourage ARCHER to continue its efforts to make plan rates available in advance of Open Enrollment.

VI. QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND BALANCE REPORT

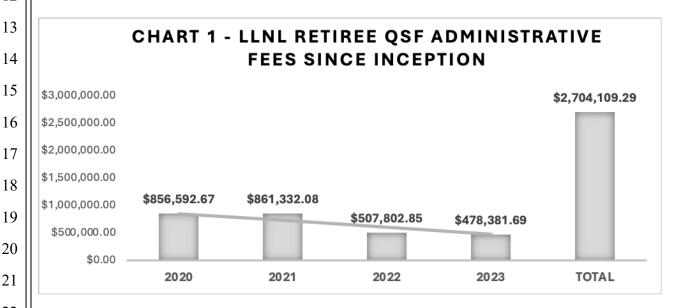
As of February 7, 2024, the LLNL Retiree Qualified Settlement Fund Balance Report reflects \$6,935,044.33, excluding undistributed attorneys' fees in the LLNL Retiree Settlement Attorneys' Fees Sub-Account. The Regents Payment for Benefits Counseling Services reflects a balance of \$3,983,961.25. The QSF Balance Report is reconciled monthly upon delivery of the custodial bank statements reflecting monthly debit (i.e., Class Member distributions, fees and expense remuneration in the form of administrative costs) and credit history (i.e., contributions, interest income). Full backing support, including detailed invoices, bank statements, and the QSF Balance Report will be made available for review upon request.

TABLE 8 - LLNL RETIREE QSF BALANCE REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2023		
TRANCHE	AMOUNT	
ADMINISTRATIVE (ACCRUED INTEREST)	\$157,956.08	
BENEFITS (COUNSELING SERVICES)	\$3,983,961.25	
CLAIMANT (REGENT PAYMENTS EXCLUDING DAMAGES)	\$767,650.77	
CLAIMANT DAMAGES (REGENT PAYMENTS RESERVED FOR DAMAGES PAYMENTS)	\$2,025,476.23	
TOTAL	\$6,935,044.33	

Annual administrative and benefits counseling costs for 2023 (January 1—December 31) are provided in Table 9 immediately below.

TABLE 9 - LLNL RETIREE QSF 2023 ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE & BENEFITS COUNSELING COSTS		
VENDOR	AMOUNT	
ARCHER SYSTEMS, LLC	\$56,857.90	
PHILLIPS CONSULTING PARTNERS, LLC	\$66,057.50	
EXTEND HEALTH LLC (LCASE HRA SERVICE)	\$145,392.00	
LCASE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS	\$208,769.29	
CA FIDUCIARY INCOME TAX RETURN FORM 541	\$725.00	
SETTLEMENT WEBSITE MAINTENANCE AND UPDATES	\$580.00	
TOTAL	\$478,381.69	
PHILLIPS CONSULTING PARTNERS, LLC (BENEFITS		
COUNSELING) TOTAL	\$16,038.75	

Chart 1 reflects both the declining cost burden and administrative fees summary related to the settlement program, and the implementation and coordination of the LCASE HRA.



VII. **COURT MONITOR COMMENTS**

I encourage the effort to conduct interviews of class members. I also approve of the discussion of creating a "safe place" (perhaps a hotline) where class members can report their experiences in accessing benefits, with the understanding that Via Benefits, Empyrean and LLNS may have no control or ability to solve problems endemic to the healthcare system. In view of the aging class membership, a

1	record of the anecdotal experiences of class members would undoubtedly inform efficient class member
2	access to benefits.
3	Date: May 22, 2024
4	
5	Blake A. Deady
6	President & General Counsel ARCHER Systems, LLC
7	THEOTER Systems, EEC
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28	

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6	Dov M. Grunschlag (SB No. 42040)	
7	Carter Carter Fries & Grunschlag	
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	Tel: (415) 989-4800	
9	Fax: (415) 989-4864 dgrunschlag@carterfries.com	
10	agranseniage curtermes.com	
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13	San Francisco, CA 94111 Tel: (415) 874-3008	
14	Kfisher@kvflo.com	
15	Attorneys for Petitioners and Class	
16		
17	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF	CALIFORNIA
18	COUNTY OF ALAMEDA	
19	Donna Ventura, Gregory M. Bianchini, Alan Hindmarsh, Calvin Wood and Sharon Wood, on behalf of Themselves	No. RG 10530492
20	and Others Similarly Situated,	SUPPLEMENTAL FILING RE UP-
21	Petitioners,	DATED DATA OF CLASS MEMBERS' USE OF SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT
22	V.	
23	Regents of University of California,	Reservation ID: 439207405419
	Respondents.	Date: 8/20/24
24		Time: 1:30 PM Dept: 21
25		DCpt. 21
26		Hon. Noel Wise
27		
28	Venture et al. v. Pegents of Univ. of C	al et al No BG 10520402

A hearing regarding the 2023 Annual Report of Settlement Administrator ARCHER Systems is scheduled for August 20, 2024, at 1:30 PM. The Annual Report contains data relating to class members' use of the Supplemental Benefit that was accurate through December 31, 2023. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a Memorandum to Court Monitor Justice James Lambden which updates data in a table that appears on page 13 of the Annual Report. The updated data may be helpful to the Court for the hearing.

Dated: 8/16/24

Andrew Thomas Sinclair
Counsel for Petitioners and Class

MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. James Lambden

Court Monitor

Requa v. Regents of UC

Alameda Superior Court No. RG 10530492

Fr: Andrew Thomas Sinclair

Kathleen V. Fisher Dov M. Grunschlag

cc: Jennifer Romano

Norman Hamill Blake Deady

Date: August 16, 2024

We have an update regarding data including with the Class Counsel Comments in the 2023 Annual Report (pp. 12-14). This may be helpful for the hearing with Judge Noel Wise on August 20, 2024.

Class Members' Use of Supplemental Payment

We asked Phillips Consulting Partners (PCP) for an update of the data in the table on p. 13 of the Report ("Summary of Living Class Members & Supplement Payment"). The data in the Report was accurate through December 31, 2023. We asked PCP for updated data through June 30, 2024.

PCP recommended a slight revision to the description of the data in the table and approved the following table comparing the data in the Annual Report with data through June 30, 2024:

	Summary of Living Class Members & Supplemental Payment			
		12/31/23	6/30/24	
1	Initial class size after opt-outs (living & deceased) as of settlement (12/20/19)	9,046	9,047	
2	Living class members	5,125	5,070	
3	Living class members who returned CMDF	4,767	4,713	
4	Living class members who have not returned CMDF so do not have access to Supplemental Payments	358	357	
5	Living class members who retuned CMDF and have access to Supplemental Payments	4,320	4,426	

We also asked PCP for a breakdown of the extent to which living class members who have access to the Supplemental Payment are actually using this benefit. (Please note that 357 class members have not returned a Class Member Data Form (CMDF) and so do not have access the Supplemental Payment.)



The data for class members who are receiving supplements is shown in quartiles below and indicates that almost 40% of the recipients use 25% or less of the supplements.

Summary of 4,426 Living Class Members and their Supplement Payment Utilization			
1	Class members who have used 100% of their Supplement allocation	680	15%
2	Class members who have used between 75% and 99% of their Supplement allocation	621	14%
3	Class members who have used between 50% and 75% of their Supplement allocation	986	22%
4	Class members who have used between 25% and 50% of their Supplement allocation	395	9%
5	Class members who have used between 1% and 25% of their Supplement allocation	680	15%
6	Class members who have not used any (0%) of their Supplement allocation	1,064	24%

Supplemental Payments that are not accessed in one calendar year roll over the next calendar year and may be used for approved health care expenses that occur in that year (and for an expense in which there are funds remaining *for that year*).

Thus, it is possible that class members are "storing up" Supplemental Payment funds to use after using their LLNS Supplement; or are saving it for *future* health care costs. It is also possible that class members are not making full use of their Supplemental Payment due to frustration with the reimbursement process.

This is a question that we plan to begin answering with enhanced class member services through the Benefit Counselor Fund.

Benefit Counselor Fund

Phillips Consulting reports encouraging discussions with a third-part provider that can provide "a 'safe place' where class members can seek and receive prompt and competent assistance at any time they are experiencing difficulties or frustrations with Via Benefits, Empyrean or LLNS." Annual Report, p. 14.

It has been challenging to find a third-party provider. Typically, such companies operate on a commission rather than a fee-for-service basis. PCP has had encouraging discussions with at least one company that may be willing to take on the task of assisting class members. We are hopeful that this will lead to an agreement as soon as it is feasible to do so.

If an agreement can be worked out, the next step will be to develop a plan to inform class members of this service in a way that reaches as many people as possible. This will likely involve a multifaceted approach. We will likely ask for your guidance and support once a plan is developed.

Providing Update to Judge Wise

We will submit this Memorandum to Judge Wise so that it is available for the hearing on August 20, 2024.

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6	D 14 C 11 (CD 14 42242)	
	Dov M. Grunschlag (SB No. 42040) Carter Carter Fries & Grunschlag	FILED
7	229 Brannan St., # 6-J	Superior Court of California County of Alameda
8	San Francisco, CA 94107	09/27/2024
9	Tel: (415) 989-4800	Chad Flake, Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court
	Fax: (415) 989-4864 dgrunschlag@carterfries.com	By: The State Deputy N. Hall
10		14. 11 siii
11	Kathleen V. Fisher (SB No. 70838)	
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14	Kfisher@kvflo.com	
15	Attorneys for Petitioners and Class	
16		
	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
17	COUNTY OF A	
18		
19	Donna Ventura, Gregory M. Bianchini, Alan Hindma Calvin Wood and Sharon Wood, on behalf of Thems	
20	and Others Similarly Situated,	Stipulation and Order After Hearing
	Petitioners,	on 2023 Annual Report of
21		Settlement Administrator
22	V.	Class Action
23	Regents of University of California,	Class Action
	Respondents.	Hon. Noel Wise
24		
25		
26		
27		
	Ventura, et al. v. Regents of U	Jniv. of Cal. et al., No. RG 10530492
28	Stipulation and Order After Hearing on Annual Repor	t

This matter came on for hearing in Department 21 of the Alameda County Superior Court on August 20, 2024, the Hon. Noel Wise presiding. Andrew Thomas Sinclair, Kathleen V. Fisher and Dov M. Grunschlag appeared for Petitioners and the Class. Jennifer Romano and Norman Hamill appeared for The Regents. Blake Deady appeared for Settlement Administrator ARCHER Systems. The hearing was also attended by Court Monitor Hon. James Lambden.

Pursuant to the Stipulation and Order filed June 11, 2024, the Court reviewed the 2023 Annual Report of Settlement Administrator ARCHER Systems dated May 22, 2024. A draft of the report was provided to the Court Monitor, Class Counsel and Counsel for The Regents before it was finalized. Comments if any were incorporated into the Report before it was provided to the Court for review.

The Court finds that the parties, the Settlement Administrator and the Court Monitor are proceeding in the manner contemplated by the Final Approval Order, which incorporates the parties' Settlement Agreement (Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and Release) "as if explicitly set forth herein and shall have the full force and effect of an order of this Court." Final Approval Order (4/10/24), ¶ 10.

All parties agree, and the Court finds, that significant progress has been made in implementing the Final Approval Order.

The Court notes and approves comments by the Court Monitor "encourage[ing] the effort to conduct interviews of class members" and approving efforts to create "a 'safe place' (perhaps a hotline) where class members can report their experiences in accessing benefits, with the understanding that Via Benefits, Empyrean and LLNS may have no control or ability to solve problems endemic to the healthcare system. In view of the aging class membership, a record of the anecdotal experiences of class members would undoubtedly inform efficient class member access to benefits." See Court Monitor Comments, Report, pp. 16-17.

A hearing with regard to the 2024 Annual Report is set for April 28, 2025, at 2:30 PM. A Case Management Statement updating the Court shall be filed on or before 15 calendar days in advance.

/

Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA FILED** COURTHOUSE ADDRESS: Superior Court of California Rene C. Davidson Courthouse County of Alameda 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 10/03/2024 PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Chad Finke, Executive Officer/Qienk of the Court Joe Regua et al Deputy N. Hall DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: The Regents of the University of California CASE NUMBER: CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE CODE OF CIVIL RG10530492 **PROCEDURE 1010.6**

I, the below named Executive Officer/Clerk of Court of the above-entitled court, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the cause herein, and that on this date I served one copy of the Stipulation and Order Stipulation and Order after Hearing on 2023 Annual Report of Settlement Administrator (revised) entered herein upon each party or counsel of record in the above entitled action, by electronically serving the document(s) from my place of business, in accordance with standard court practices.

Andrew Thomas Sinclair Sinclair Law Office ats@sinclairlawoffice.com FISHER V. KATHLEEN CALVO FISHER & JACOB LLP Kfisher@kvflo.com

J. Daniel Sharp Crowell & Moring LLP jsharp@crowell.com Jennifer Salzman Romano Crowell & Moring LLP jromano@crowell.com

Kathleen V Fisher Fisher Law Office kfisher@kvflo.com

Dated: 10/03/2024

Chad Finke, Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court

By:

N. Hall, Deputy Clerk

Ricile Hall

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA	Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp
COURTHOUSE ADDRESS: Rene C. Davidson Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612	FILE D Superior Court of California County of Alameda 10/03/2024
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Joe Requa et al DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: The Regents of the University of California	Chad Flike , Executive Office / Clerk of the Courl By: New York And Deputy N. Hall
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	CASE NUMBER: RG10530492

I, the below-named Executive Officer/Clerk of the above-entitled court, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the cause herein, and that on this date I served the attached document upon each party or counsel named below by placing the document for collection and mailing so as to cause it to be deposited in the United States mail at the courthouse in Oakland, California, one copy of the original filed/entered herein in a separate sealed envelope to each address as shown below with the postage thereon fully prepaid, in accordance with standard court practices.

William N. Hebert Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Rotunda Building, Suite 160 Oakland, CA 94612-

Dated: 10/03/2024

Chad Finke, Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court

By:

N. Hall, Deputy Clerk

Nicole Hall