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16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 17 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 18 WESTERN DIVISION

19 In re QUESTCOR
 20 PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
 21 SECURITIES LITIGATION

No. 8:12-cv-01623-DMG(JPRx)

CLASS ACTION

22 This Document Relates To:
 23 ALL ACTIONS.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
 AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF
 LEAD COUNSEL'S MOTION FOR
 AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES
 AND EXPENSES

DATE: September 18, 2015

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

CTRM: The Honorable Dolly M. Gee

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Lead Counsel has succeeded in obtaining a \$38,000,000 cash settlement for the
3 benefit of Members of the Class. The substantial recovery obtained for the Class was
4 achieved solely through the skill, work, tenacity, and effective advocacy of Lead
5 Counsel. As compensation for its efforts in achieving this result, Lead Counsel seeks
6 an award of attorneys' fees of 22% of the Settlement Amount, plus expenses incurred
7 in the prosecution of the Litigation in the amount of \$627,594.92, plus interest at the
8 same rate and for the same period of time as that earned by the Settlement Amount
9 until paid. The requested fee is below the Ninth Circuit's 25% "benchmark" fee in
10 similar actions, numerous decisions in this Circuit, and decisions throughout the
11 United States.¹ Consistent with these cases, courts in this District have awarded 22%
12 or more of the settlement fund in securities class actions. *See, e.g., Thurber v. Mattel,*
13 *Inc.*, CV 99-10368-MRP (CWx), slip op. (C.D. Cal. Oct. 1, 2003) (court awarded fee
14 of 27% of \$122 million recovery, plus expenses) and *Batwin v. Occam Networks, Inc.*,
15 No. 2:07-cv-02750-CAS (SHx), slip op. (C.D. Cal. Feb. 22, 2010) (court awarded fee
16 of 25% of \$13.945 million recovery, plus expenses). The amount requested is
17 warranted in light of the substantial recovery obtained for the Class, the extensive
18 efforts of counsel in obtaining this highly favorable result, and the significant risks in
19 bringing and prosecuting this Litigation.

20 This Litigation was prosecuted under the provisions of the Private Securities
21 Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PSLRA") and, therefore, was extremely risky and
22

23 ¹ Submitted herewith in support of approval of the proposed Settlement is the
24 Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Final
25 Approval of Class Action Settlement and Plan of Allocation (the "Settlement Brief").
26 In addition, the Court is respectfully referred to the accompanying Declaration of
27 Andrew J. Brown in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action
28 Settlement and Plan of Allocation and Lead Counsel's Motion for an Award of
Attorneys' Fees and Expenses ("Brown Decl.") for a more detailed description of the
history of the Litigation, an overview of the claims asserted, the investigation
undertaken, the negotiation of the Settlement, and the substantial risks of the
Litigation.

1 difficult from the outset. The effect of the PSLRA is to make it harder for investors to
2 bring and successfully conclude securities class actions. Lead Counsel and Plaintiffs
3 were mindful of the fact that in this post-PSLRA environment, a greater percentage of
4 cases are being dismissed than ever before, amid defendants' constant attempts to
5 push the envelope and contents of the PSLRA. In a per curiam decision, former
6 Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor recognized: "To be successful, a
7 securities class-action plaintiff must thread the eye of a needle made smaller and
8 smaller over the years by judicial decree and congressional action." *Alaska Elec.*
9 *Pension Fund v. Flowserve Corp.*, 572 F.3d 221, 235 (5th Cir. 2009).

10 In addition to the significant risks, the prosecution of this Litigation required
11 great skill and extensive efforts by Lead Counsel. Lead Counsel marshaled
12 considerable resources and committed substantial amounts of time and expense in the
13 prosecution of the action. As set forth in more detail in the Brown Declaration and the
14 Settlement Brief, Lead Counsel oversaw an in-depth investigation, conducted a
15 thorough analysis of the claims, successfully opposed in the main Defendants'
16 motions to dismiss the Consolidated Class Action Complaint for Violation of the
17 Federal Securities Laws ("Consolidated Complaint"),² aggressively pursued document
18 discovery which resulted in the production of over 1.6 million pages of documents by
19 Defendants and third parties, took or defended the depositions of 32 fact witnesses,
20 successfully certified a class, and began expert discovery. In addition, Lead Counsel
21 participated in arm's-length settlement negotiations which were arduous, including an
22 all-day mediation session, and extensive follow-up negotiations over the next several
23 months after the mediation with the substantial assistance of the Honorable Layn R.
24 Phillips (Ret.), a highly respected mediator with a wealth of experience in the
25 mediation of complex class actions.

26 _____
27 ² The Court dismissed defendants Mitchell J. Blutt and David J. Medeiros and the
28 alleged misstatements concerning Questcor's compliance with regulatory and industry
standards.

1 Lead Counsel undertook the representation of the Class on a contingent fee
2 basis and no payment has been made to Lead Counsel to date for its services or for the
3 significant litigation expenses it has advanced on behalf of the Class. Lead Counsel
4 firmly believes that the Settlement is the result of its diligent and effective advocacy,
5 as well as its reputation as attorneys who are unwavering in their dedication to the
6 interests of the class and unafraid to zealously prosecute a meritorious case through
7 trial and subsequent appeals. In this case, which asserted claims based on complex
8 legal and factual issues that were vigorously opposed by skilled and experienced
9 defense counsel from highly respected law firms, Lead Counsel succeeded in securing
10 a highly favorable result for the Class.

11 As discussed herein, as well as in the Settlement Brief and the Brown
12 Declaration, the requested fee is fair and reasonable when considered under the
13 applicable standards in the Ninth Circuit and is well within the range of awards in
14 class actions in this Circuit and courts nationwide, particularly in view of the
15 substantial risks of bringing and pursuing this Litigation, the considerable
16 investigation and litigation efforts, and the results achieved for the Class. Moreover,
17 the expenses requested are reasonable in amount and were necessarily incurred for the
18 successful prosecution of this Litigation.

19 **II. AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES**

20 **A. A Reasonable Percentage of the Fund Recovered Is the**
21 **Appropriate Method for Awarding Attorneys' Fees in**
Common Fund Cases

22 For its efforts in creating a common fund for the benefit of the Class, Lead
23 Counsel seeks a reasonable percentage of the fund recovered as attorneys' fees. The
24 percentage method of awarding fees has become an accepted, if not the prevailing,
25 method for awarding fees in common fund cases in this Circuit and throughout the
26 United States.

27 It has long been recognized that "a private plaintiff, or his attorney, whose
28 efforts create, discover, increase or preserve a fund to which others also have a claim

1 is entitled to recover from the fund the costs of his litigation, including attorneys’
2 fees.” *Vincent v. Hughes Air W., Inc.*, 557 F.2d 759, 769 (9th Cir. 1977). The
3 purpose of this doctrine is to avoid unjust enrichment so that “those who benefit from
4 the creation of the fund should share the wealth with the lawyers whose skill and
5 effort helped create it.” *In re Wash. Pub. Power Supply Sys. Sec. Litig.*, 19 F.3d 1291,
6 1300 (9th Cir. 1994) (“WPPSS”). This rule, known as the “common fund” doctrine, is
7 firmly rooted in American case law. *See, e.g., Trustees v. Greenough*, 105 U.S. 527
8 (1882); *Cent. R.R. & Banking Co. v. Pettus*, 113 U.S. 116 (1885).³

9 In *Blum v. Stenson*, 465 U.S. 886 (1984), the Supreme Court recognized that
10 under the common fund doctrine a reasonable fee may be based “on a percentage of
11 the fund bestowed on the class.” *Id.* at 900 n.16. In this Circuit, the district court has
12 discretion to award fees in common fund cases based on either the so-called
13 lodestar/multiplier method or the percentage-of-the-fund method. *WPPSS*, 19 F.3d at
14 1296. In *Paul, Johnson*, 886 F.2d at 272, *Six (6) Mexican Workers v. Ariz. Citrus*
15 *Growers*, 904 F.2d 1301, 1311 (9th Cir. 1990), *Torrissi v. Tucson Elec. Power Co.*, 8
16 F.3d 1370, 1376-77 (9th Cir. 1993), and *Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043,
17 1047-48 (9th Cir. 2002), the Ninth Circuit expressly approved the use of the
18 percentage method in common fund cases. Moreover, supporting authority for the
19 percentage method in other circuits is overwhelming.⁴ Courts in other circuits favor

20
21 ³ In *Paul, Johnson, Alston & Hunt v. Grauldy*, 886 F.2d 268 (9th Cir. 1989), the
Ninth Circuit explained the principle underlying fee awards in common fund cases:

22 Since the Supreme Court’s 1885 decision in [*Cent. R.R.*, 113 U.S. 116],
23 it is well settled that the lawyer who creates a common fund is allowed
24 an *extra* reward, beyond that which he has arranged with his client, so
25 that he might share the wealth of those upon whom he has conferred a
benefit. The amount of such a reward is that which is deemed
“reasonable” under the circumstances.

26 *Id.* at 271 (emphasis in original). Citations and internal footnotes are omitted and
emphasis is added throughout unless otherwise indicated.

27 ⁴ Other circuits and commentators have expressly approved the use of the percentage
28 method. *Gottlieb v. Barry*, 43 F.3d 474 (10th Cir. 1994); *Brown v. Phillips Petroleum*
Co., 838 F.2d 451, 454 (10th Cir. 1988) (citing footnote 16 of *Blum* recognizing both

1 the percentage-of-recovery approach for the award of attorneys' fees in common fund
2 cases. Two circuits have ruled that the percentage method is mandatory in common
3 fund cases. *Swedish Hosp. Corp. v. Shalala*, 1 F.3d 1261 (D.C. Cir. 1993); *Camden I*
4 *Condo. Ass'n v. Dunkle*, 946 F.2d 768, 774-75 (11th Cir. 1991).

5 Since *Paul, Johnson* and its progeny, district courts in the Ninth Circuit have
6 almost uniformly shifted to the percentage method in awarding fees in common fund
7 representative actions. The rationale for compensating counsel in common fund cases
8 on a percentage basis is sound. First, it is consistent with the practice in the private
9 marketplace where contingent fee attorneys are customarily compensated by a
10 percentage of the recovery. Second, it more closely aligns the lawyers' interest in
11 being paid a fair fee with the interest of the class in achieving the maximum possible
12 recovery in the shortest amount of time. For example, in *Kirchoff v. Flynn*, 786 F.2d
13 320 (7th Cir. 1986), the court stated:

14 The contingent fee uses private incentives rather than careful
15 monitoring to align the interests of lawyer and client. The lawyer gains
16 only to the extent his client gains. . . . The unscrupulous lawyer paid by
17 the hour may be willing to settle for a lower recovery coupled with a
18 payment for more hours. Contingent fees eliminate this incentive and
19 also ensure a reasonable proportion between the recovery and the fees
20 assessed to defendants. . . .

21 At the same time as it automatically aligns interests of lawyer and
22 client, rewards exceptional success, and penalizes failure, the contingent
23 fee automatically handles compensation for the uncertainty of litigation.

24 *Id.* at 325-26.

25
26 "implicitly" and "explicitly" that a percentage recovery is reasonable in common fund
27 cases); *Harman v. Lymphomed, Inc.*, 945 F.2d 969, 975 (7th Cir. 1991); *Goldberger v.*
28 *Integrated Res., Inc.*, 209 F.3d 43, 50-51 (2d Cir. 2000); Report of the Third Circuit
Task Force, *Court Awarded Attorney Fees*, 108 F.R.D. 237, 254 (Oct. 8, 1985).

1 In line with the view of many courts, one of the nation’s leading scholars in the
2 field of class actions and attorneys’ fees, Professor Charles Silver of the University of
3 Texas School of Law, has concluded that the percentage method of awarding fees is
4 the only method of fee awards that is consistent with class members’ due process
5 rights. Professor Silver notes:

6 The consensus that the contingent percentage approach creates a
7 closer harmony of interests between class counsel and absent plaintiffs
8 than the lodestar method is strikingly broad. It includes leading
9 academics, researchers at the RAND Institute for Civil Justice, and many
10 judges, including those who contributed to the Manual for Complex
11 Litigation, the Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee, and the
12 report of the Third Circuit Task Force. Indeed, it is difficult to find
13 anyone who contends otherwise. No one writing in the field today is
14 defending the lodestar on the ground that it minimizes conflicts between
15 class counsel and absent claimants.

16 In view of this, it is as clear as it possibly can be that judges
17 should not apply the lodestar method in common fund class actions. The
18 Due Process Clause requires them to minimize conflicts between absent
19 claimants and their representatives. The contingent percentage approach
20 accomplishes this.

21 Charles Silver, *Due Process and the Lodestar Method: You Can’t Get There from*
22 *Here*, 74 Tul. L. Rev. 1809, 1819-20 (June 2000).⁵

23 _____
24 ⁵ Professor Coffee also argues that a percentage of the recovery is the only reasonable
method of awarding fees in common fund cases:

25 If one wishes to economize on the judicial time that is today invested in
26 monitoring class and derivative litigation, the highest priority should be
27 given to those reforms that restrict collusion and are essentially self-
28 policing. The percentage of the recovery fee award formula is such a
“deregulatory” reform because it relies on incentives rather than costly
monitoring. Ultimately, this “deregulatory” approach is the only
alternative

1 **B. A Percentage Fee of 22% of the Fund Created Is**
2 **Reasonable in This Case**

3 In *Paul, Johnson*, 886 F.2d at 272, the Ninth Circuit established 25% of a
4 common fund as the “benchmark” award for attorneys’ fees. *See also Torrissi*, 8 F.3d
5 at 1376 (reaffirming 25% benchmark); *Powers v. Eichen*, 229 F.3d 1249, 1256 (9th
6 Cir. 2000) (same); *In re Bluetooth Headset Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 943 (9th
7 Cir. 2011) (reaffirming 25% benchmark in a common fund case). The guiding
8 principle in this Circuit is that a fee award be “reasonable under the circumstances.”
9 *WPPSS*, 19 F.3d at 1296 (emphasis omitted). “The Ninth Circuit has approved a
10 number of factors which may be relevant to the district court’s determination: (1) the
11 results achieved; (2) the risk of litigation; (3) the skill required and the quality of
12 work; (4) the contingent nature of the fee and the financial burden carried by the
13 plaintiffs; and (5) awards made in similar cases.” *In re Omnivision Techs.*, 559 F.
14 Supp. 2d 1036, 1046 (N.D. Cal. 2007). In view of the risks in pursuing this Litigation,
15 the highly favorable result obtained, the financial commitment of Lead Counsel, the
16 contingent nature of the representation, and the skill of Lead Counsel, an award of
17 22% of the recovery obtained for the Class is clearly appropriate.

18 **1. The Result Achieved**

19 Courts have consistently recognized that the result achieved is a major factor to
20 be considered in making a fee award. *Hensley v. Eckerhart*, 461 U.S. 424, 436 (1983)
21 (“most critical factor is the degree of success obtained”); *In re King Res. Co. Sec.*
22 *Litig.*, 420 F. Supp. 610, 630 (D. Colo. 1976) (“the amount of the recovery, and end
23 result achieved are of primary importance, for these are the true benefit to the client”);
24 *Behrens v. Wometco Enters., Inc.*, 118 F.R.D. 534, 547-48 (S.D. Fla. 1988) (“The
25
26

27 John C. Coffee, Jr., *Understanding the Plaintiff’s Attorney: The Implications of*
28 *Economic Theory for Private Enforcement of Law Through Class and Derivative*
Actions, 86 Colum. L. Rev. 669, 724-25 (May 1986).

1 quality of work performed in a case that settles before trial is best measured by the
2 benefit obtained.”), *aff’d*, 899 F.2d 21 (11th Cir. 1990).

3 Here, a substantial and certain recovery of \$38,000,000 in cash has been
4 obtained through the extensive efforts of Lead Counsel without the substantial
5 expense, delay, risk, and uncertainty of continued litigation. As discussed in more
6 detail in the Settlement Brief, the recovery obtained for the Class is a significant
7 amount of money and represents an outstanding result of this complex litigation.

8 As detailed in the Settlement Brief and the Brown Declaration, there were
9 significant legal and factual roadblocks to obtaining a more favorable outcome in this
10 Litigation. Despite these obstacles to recovery, Lead Counsel was able to obtain a
11 substantial and certain benefit for the Class and Class Members will receive
12 compensation for their losses in Questcor common stock in the near future and avoid
13 the substantial expense, delay, and uncertainty of continued litigation.

14 **2. The Risks of the Litigation and the Novelty and**
15 **Difficulty of the Questions Presented**

16 Numerous cases have recognized that risk as well as the novelty and difficulty
17 of the issues presented are important factors in determining a fee award. *E.g.*,
18 *Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1048; *WPPSS*, 19 F.3d at 1299-1301. Uncertainty that an
19 ultimate recovery would be obtained is highly relevant in determining risk. *WPPSS*,
20 19 F.3d at 1300. As the court aptly observed in *King Res.*:

21 The litigation also involved unique and substantial issues of law in
22 the technical area of SEC Rule 10b-5, . . . difficult, complex and oft-
23 disputed class action questions, and difficult questions regarding
24 computation of damages.

25 * * *

26 In evaluating the services rendered in this case, appropriate
27 consideration must be given to the risks assumed by plaintiffs’ counsel in
28 undertaking the litigation. The prospects of success were by no means

1 certain at the outset, and indeed, the chances of success were highly
2 speculative and problematical.

3 420 F. Supp. at 632, 636-37; *see also In re Heritage Bond Litig. v. U.S. Trust Co. of*
4 *Tex., N.A.*, No. 02-ML-1475-DT(RCx), 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13627, at *44 (C.D.
5 Cal. June 10, 2005) (“The risks assumed by Class Counsel, particularly the risk of
6 non-payment or reimbursement of expenses, is a factor in determining counsel’s
7 proper fee award.”).

8 There is no question that from the outset this Litigation presented a number of
9 sharply contested issues of both fact and law and that Plaintiffs faced formidable
10 defenses to liability and damages. This was a complex class action involving complex
11 legal, accounting, and factual issues under the federal securities laws. Throughout the
12 Litigation, Defendants have denied liability and asserted defenses to Plaintiffs’ claims.
13 *See Churchill Vill., L.L.C. v. GE*, 361 F.3d 566, 576 (9th Cir. 2004) (concluding that
14 district court properly weighed risk when it concluded defendant’s belief that it had a
15 strong case on merits supporting finding of risk).

16 As discussed in the Brown Declaration and the Settlement Brief, substantial
17 risks and uncertainties in this type of litigation, and in this case in particular, made it
18 far from certain that a recovery, let alone \$38 million, would ultimately be obtained.
19 From the outset, this post-PSLRA action was an especially difficult and highly
20 uncertain securities case, with no assurance whatsoever that the Litigation would
21 survive Defendants’ attacks on the pleadings, motion(s) for summary judgment, trial
22 and appeal. As the court noted in *In re Ikon Office Solutions, Inc.*, 194 F.R.D. 166
23 (E.D. Pa. 2000),

24 [t]here were the legal obstacles of establishing scienter, damages,
25 causation The court also acknowledges that securities actions have
26 become more difficult from a plaintiff’s perspective in the wake of the
27 PSLRA. . . . The Act imposes many new procedural hurdles It also
28

1 substantially alters the legal standards applied to securities fraud claims
2 in ways that generally benefit defendants rather than plaintiffs.

3 *Id.* at 194-95. The court’s statement in *Ikon* is applicable here.⁶

4 The application of the PSLRA to this Litigation posed significant risks to
5 Plaintiffs’ ability to survive Defendants’ motions to dismiss. In fact, after Congress
6 passed the PSLRA, courts in this Circuit and across the country have dismissed cases
7 at the pleading stage in response to defendants’ arguments that the complaints do not
8 meet the PSLRA’s heightened pleading standards, making it clear that the risk of no
9 recovery (and hence no fee) has increased exponentially. *See Goldstein v. MCI*
10 *WorldCom*, 340 F.3d 238, 241 (5th Cir. 2003) (affirming dismissal of securities fraud
11 action against Bernard Ebbers and WorldCom even though Ebbers was later convicted
12 criminally). A study of securities class actions filed and resolved between January
13 2000 and December 2012, found that 42% of cases filed in the Ninth Circuit were
14 dismissed in defendants’ favor. *See Dr. Renzo Comolli, Sukaina Klein, Dr. Ronald I.*
15 *Miller & Svetlana Starykh, Recent Trends in Securities Class Action Litigation: 2012*
16 *Full-Year Review* at 18, Figure 16 (NERA Jan. 29, 2013).

17 There is also no question that absent settlement, Plaintiffs and the Class faced
18 the substantial risk of years of additional litigation with no guarantee of any recovery.
19 A victory at the trial stage certainly would not guarantee ultimate success. Both trial
20 and judicial review are unpredictable and could seriously and adversely affect the
21

22 ⁶ Even before the passage of the PSLRA, courts had noted that a securities case “by
23 its very nature, is a complex animal.” *Clark v. Lomas & Nettleton Fin. Corp.*, 79
24 F.R.D. 641, 654 (N.D. Tex. 1978), *vacated on other grounds*, 625 F.2d 49 (5th Cir.
1980); *see also Miller v. Woodmoor Corp.*, No. 74-F-988, 1978 U.S. Dist. LEXIS
15234, at *11-*12 (D. Colo. Sept. 28, 1978):

25 The benefit to the class must also be viewed in its relationship to
26 the complexity, magnitude, and novelty of the case. . . .

27 Despite years of litigation, the area of securities law has gained
28 little predictability. There are few “routine” or “simple” securities
actions.

1 scope of an ultimate recovery, if not the recovery itself. Indeed, as one court has
2 observed:

3 Even a victory at trial is not a guarantee of ultimate success. If
4 plaintiffs were successful at trial and obtained a judgment for
5 substantially more than the amount of the proposed settlement, the
6 defendants would appeal such judgment. An appeal could seriously and
7 adversely affect the scope of an ultimate recovery, if not the recovery
8 itself.

9 *In re Warner Commc'ns Sec. Litig.*, 618 F. Supp. 735, 747-48 (S.D.N.Y. 1985) (citing
10 numerous examples), *aff'd*, 798 F.2d 35 (2d Cir. 1986).

11 A good example of the risks and delays inherent in securities litigation, even
12 after a jury verdict in favor of the class, is *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, No. 1:02-CV-
13 05893 (N.D. Ill.) ("*Household*"). In *Household*, a securities class action case filed in
14 2002, plaintiffs who are represented by Lead Counsel obtained a jury verdict in their
15 favor on May 7, 2009 after a month-long trial and seven years of costly and
16 contentious litigation. Because of post-verdict challenges, a judgment was not entered
17 until October 17, 2013, which was then appealed. After 13 years of litigation, and six
18 years after a favorable jury verdict, the Seventh Circuit ruled on May 21, 2015 that the
19 defendants are entitled to a new trial primarily on the issue of loss causation. As a
20 result, not a single class member has received a penny from the defendants and the
21 case is likely to continue for years. Here, as in *Household*, Lead Counsel could not be
22 certain that it could promptly collect on a post-trial monetary judgment even if it
23 prevailed at trial.

24 There is simply no question that, absent settlement, Plaintiffs faced tremendous
25 risk of years of additional litigation with no guarantee of any recovery. Accordingly,
26 the risks of litigation as well as the novelty and difficulty of the legal and factual
27 questions in this Litigation support the requested fee award.

28

1 **3. The Skill Required and the Quality and Efficiency of**
2 **the Work**

3 The “prosecution and management of a complex national class action requires
4 unique legal skills and abilities.” *Heritage Bond*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13627, at
5 *39. These unique skills were called upon here and support the requested fee. From
6 the outset, Lead Counsel engaged in a concerted effort to obtain the maximum
7 recovery for the Class. This case required a determined investigation and the skill to
8 respond to a host of legal and factual defenses raised by Defendants. Lead Counsel
9 demonstrated that, notwithstanding the barriers erected by the PSLRA and
10 Defendants’ efforts to thwart attempts by Plaintiffs to conduct formal discovery, it
11 would develop evidence to support a convincing case.

12 Lead Counsel’s investigative efforts and analysis ultimately defeated, in part,
13 Defendants’ motions to dismiss the Consolidated Complaint. As a result of surviving
14 Defendants’ attacks on the pleadings; the investigative efforts undertaken; the
15 significant discovery efforts, including the completion of fact discovery and the
16 commencement of expert discovery involving experts in the areas of market
17 efficiency, loss causation, damages and the pharmaceutical industry, Lead Counsel
18 was positioned to negotiate a highly favorable settlement with Defendants. The
19 substantial recovery obtained for the Class is the direct result of the significant efforts
20 of highly skilled and specialized attorneys who possess substantial experience in the
21 prosecution of complex securities class actions.

22 The quality of opposing counsel is also important in evaluating the quality of
23 the work done by Lead Counsel. Lead Counsel was opposed in this Litigation by very
24 skilled and highly respected counsel from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
25 LLP and Latham & Watkins LLP, law firms with well-deserved reputations for
26 vigorous advocacy in the defense of complex civil cases such as this. In the face of
27 this formidable opposition, Lead Counsel was able to develop its case so as to
28 persuade Defendants to settle the Litigation for a substantial sum of money. *See In re*

1 *Delphi Corp. Sec.*, 248 F.R.D. 483, 504 (E.D. Mich. 2008) (“The ability of Co-Lead
2 Counsel to negotiate a favorable settlement in the face of formidable legal opposition
3 further evidences the reasonableness of the fee award requested.”).

4 **4. The Contingent Fee Nature of the Case and the**
5 **Financial Burden Carried by Lead Counsel**

6 A determination of a fair fee must include consideration of the contingent
7 nature of the fee and the difficulties which were overcome in obtaining the settlement.

8 It is an established practice in the private legal market to reward
9 attorneys for taking the risk of non-payment by paying them a premium
10 over their normal hourly rates for winning contingency cases. *See*
11 Richard Posner, *Economic Analysis of Law* §21.9, at 534-35 (3d ed.
12 1986). Contingent fees that may far exceed the market value of the
13 services if rendered on a non-contingent basis are accepted in the legal
14 profession as a legitimate way of assuring competent representation for
15 plaintiffs who could not afford to pay on an hourly basis regardless
16 whether they win or lose.

17 *WPPSS*, 19 F.3d at 1299.

18 In awarding counsel’s attorneys’ fees in *In re Prudential-Bache Energy Income*
19 *P’ships Sec. Litig.*, No. MDL 888, 1994 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6621 (E.D. La. May 18,
20 1994), the court noted the risks that plaintiffs’ counsel had taken:

21 Although today it might appear that risk was not great based on
22 Prudential Securities’ global settlement with the Securities and Exchange
23 Commission, such was not the case when the action was commenced and
24 throughout most of the litigation. Counsel’s contingent fee risk is an
25 important factor in determining the fee award. Success is never
26 guaranteed and counsel faced serious risks since both trial and judicial
27 review are unpredictable. Counsel advanced all of the costs of litigation,
28

1 a not insubstantial amount, and bore the additional risk of unsuccessful
2 prosecution.

3 *Id.* at *16.

4 Indeed, the risk of no recovery for the class and counsel in complex cases of
5 this type is very real. There are numerous class actions in which plaintiffs' counsel
6 expended thousands of hours and yet received no remuneration whatsoever despite
7 their diligence and expertise. For example, in *In re Oracle Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. C
8 01-00988 SI, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 50995 (N.D. Cal. June 16, 2009), *aff'd*, 627 F.3d
9 376 (9th Cir. 2010), a case that Lead Counsel prosecuted, the court granted summary
10 judgment to defendants after eight years of litigation, after plaintiff's counsel incurred
11 over \$7 million in expenses, and worked over 100,000 hours, representing a lodestar
12 of approximately \$40 million. Additionally, after a lengthy trial involving securities
13 claims against JDS Uniphase Corporation, the jury reached a verdict in defendants'
14 favor. *See In re JDS Uniphase Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. C-02-1486 CW (EDL), 2007
15 WL 4788556 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 27, 2007).

16 Similarly, even the most promising multi- million dollar case can be eviscerated
17 by a sudden change in the law after years of litigation. This is what happened here.
18 Several months before the Settlement, the Ninth Circuit issued an opinion holding that
19 "any decline in a corporation's share price following announcement of an
20 investigation can only be attributed to market speculation about whether fraud has
21 occurred. This type of speculation cannot form the basis of a viable loss causation
22 theory." *Loos v. Immersion Corp.*, 762 F.3d 880, 890 (9th Cir. 2014). This decision
23 almost certainly severally reduced the amount of damages that Plaintiffs could prove
24 at trial. *See also In re Alstom SA Sec. Litig.*, 741 F. Supp. 2d 469, 471-73 (S.D.N.Y.
25 2010) (after completing significant foreign discovery, 95% of plaintiffs' damages
26 were eliminated by the Supreme Court's reversal of some 40 years of unbroken circuit
27 court precedents in *Morrison v. Nat'l Austl. Bank Ltd.*, 561 U.S. 247 (2010)).

28

1 As the court in *In re Xcel Energy, Inc.*, 364 F. Supp. 2d 980 (D. Minn. 2005)
2 recognized, “[p]recedent is replete with situations in which attorneys representing a
3 class have devoted substantial resources in terms of time and advanced costs yet have
4 lost the case despite their advocacy.” *Id.* at 994. Even plaintiffs who get past
5 summary judgment and succeed at trial may find their judgment overturned on appeal
6 or on a post-trial motion.⁷

7 Because the fee in this matter was entirely contingent, the only certainties were
8 that there would be no fee without a successful result and that such a result would be
9 realized only after considerable and difficult effort. Lead Counsel committed
10 significant resources of both time and money to the vigorous and successful
11 prosecution of this action for the benefit of the Class. The contingent nature of
12 counsel’s representation strongly favors approval of the requested fee.

13 **5. A 22% Fee Award Is Consistent or Less than Awards**
14 **in Similar Complex, Contingent Litigation**

15 Courts often look to fees awarded in comparable cases to determine if the fee
16 requested is reasonable. *See Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1050 n.4. The fee requested is
17 below the Ninth Circuit’s benchmark of 25% and is also less than fees awarded in
18 other similar cases. The court in *Xcel*, after considering “cases from [the District of
19 Minnesota], other districts, and . . . attorney fee studies referenced in other cases”
20 concluded that “this factor – comparison to other cases – supports the 25% requested
21 [fee].” 364 F. Supp. 2d at 998-99.

22
23 ⁷ *See, e.g., In re BankAtlantic Bancorp, Sec. Litig.*, No. 07-61542-CIV-UNGARO,
24 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 48057 (S.D. Fla. Apr. 25, 2011) (court granted defendants’
25 judgment as a matter of law on the basis of loss causation, overturning jury verdict
26 and award in plaintiff’s favor), *aff’d*, 688 F.3d 713 (11th Cir. 2012); *Robbins v. Koger*
27 *Props.*, 116 F.3d 1441, 1448-49 (11th Cir. 1997) (jury verdict of \$81 million for
28 plaintiffs against an accounting firm reversed on appeal on loss causation grounds and
judgment entered for defendant); *Anixter v. Home-Stake Prod. Co.*, 77 F.3d 1215,
1233 (10th Cir. 1996) (Tenth Circuit overturned securities fraud class action jury
verdict for plaintiffs in case filed in 1973 and tried in 1988 on the basis of 1994
Supreme Court opinion).

1 The requested fee is also less than the median fee award for securities cases
2 based on a recent analysis of fee awards conducted in 2014 by NERA. Using data
3 from securities class actions from 1996-2014, the study found that for settlements
4 between \$25 million and \$100 million, where this Settlement falls, the median fee
5 award was 26.8% of the settlement amount and for settlements between 2012-2014 in
6 the same range of recovery, the median fee award was 25% of the settlement amount.
7 Dr. Renzo Comolli & Svetlana Starykh, *Recent Trends in Securities Class Action*
8 *Litigation: 2014 Full-Year Review, Settlement Amounts Plummeting in 2014, but post-*
9 *Halliburton II filing Rebound* at 34, Figure 29 (NERA Jan. 20, 2015) (“2015 NERA
10 Study”).

11 The requested fee is also below the range of three studies relied on by the
12 district court in *In re Rite Aid Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 146 F. Supp. 2d 706 (E.D. Pa. 2001).
13 As the Third Circuit noted in *In re Rite Aid Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 396 F.3d 294 (3d Cir.
14 2005):

15 In comparing this fee request to awards in similar cases, the
16 District Court found persuasive three studies referenced by Professor
17 Coffee: one study of securities class action settlements over \$10 million
18 that found an average percentage fee recovery of 31%; a second study by
19 the Federal Judicial Center of all class actions resolved or settled over a
20 four-year period that found a median percentage recovery range of 27-
21 30%; and a third study of class action settlements between \$100 million
22 and \$200 million that found recoveries in the 25-30% range were “fairly
23 standard.” We see no abuse of discretion in the District Court’s reliance
24 on these studies.

25 *Id.* at 303. The fee requested is below the range in the cases on which these studies
26 were based.

27
28

1 Moreover, if this were a non-representative litigation, the customary fee
2 arrangement would be contingent, on a percentage basis, and in the range of 30% to
3 40% of the recovery. The Supreme Court in *Blum* stated:

4 In tort suits, an attorney might receive one-third of whatever amount the
5 plaintiff recovers. In those cases, therefore, the fee is directly
6 proportional to the recovery.

7 465 U.S. at 903*; *Ikon*, 194 F.R.D. at 194 (“in private contingency fee cases,
8 particularly in tort matters, plaintiffs’ counsel routinely negotiate agreements
9 providing for between thirty and forty percent of any recovery”); *In re M.D.C.*
10 *Holdings Sec. Litig.*, No. CV 89-0090 E (M), 1990 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15488, at *22
11 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 30, 1990) (“In private contingent litigation, fee contracts have
12 traditionally ranged between 30% and 40% of the total recovery.”).

13 **C. Reaction of the Class Supports Approval of the Attorneys’**
14 **Fees Requested**

15 Although not articulated specifically in *Vizcaino*, district courts in the Ninth
16 Circuit also consider the reaction of the class when deciding whether to award the
17 requested fee. *Heritage Bond*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13627, at *48 (“The presence
18 or absence of objections . . . is also a factor in determining the proper fee award.”).

19 To date, over 103,000 copies of the Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class
20 Action (“Notice”) and the Proof of Claim and Release form (“Proof of Claim”) were
21 mailed to potential Class Members and nominees. See Declaration of Carole K.
22 Sylvester, on behalf of Gilardi & Co. LLC, ¶¶3-10, submitted herewith. The
23 Summary Notice was published in *Investor’s Business Daily* and transmitted over
24 *Business Wire* on June 16, 2015. *Id.*, ¶13. In addition, the Stipulation, Notice, Proof
25 of Claim, and Order Preliminarily Approving Settlement and Providing for Notice
26 (“Preliminary Approval Order”) were posted to a website dedicated to the Settlement
27 (www.questcorsecuritieslitigation.com) and Lead Counsel’s website. Class Members
28 were informed in the Notice that Lead Counsel was moving the Court for attorneys’

1 fees of up to 27.5% of the Settlement Fund (5.5% more than what Lead Counsel is
2 requesting) and for expenses in an amount not to exceed \$675,000. Class Members
3 were also advised of their right to object to the fee and expense request, and that such
4 objections are required to be filed with the Court no later than August 21, 2015. As of
5 the date of this memorandum, Lead Counsel is not aware of a single objection to
6 counsel's fee and expense request or any other aspect of the Settlement. The lack of
7 objection is compelling evidence that the requested fees and expenses are fair.
8 Moreover, a small number of objections do not stand in the way of approval of a
9 reasonable fee. *See In re Mego Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 213 F.3d 454, 459 (9th Cir.
10 2000).⁸

11 **D. The Requested Fee Is Reasonable Under a Lodestar Cross-
12 Check Analysis**

13 Although Lead Counsel seeks approval of a fee based on a percentage of the
14 recovery, “[a]s a final check on the reasonableness of the requested fees, courts often
15 compare the fee counsel seeks as a percentage with what their hourly bills would
16 amount to under the lodestar analysis.” *Omnivision*, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1048. In
17 *Vizcaino*, the Ninth Circuit noted that an analysis of the “lodestar method is merely a
18 cross-check on the reasonableness of a percentage figure, and it is widely recognized
19 that the lodestar method creates incentives for counsel to expend more hours than may
20 be necessary on litigating a case so as to recover a reasonable fee, since the lodestar
21 method does not reward early settlement.” 290 F.3d at 1050 n.5.

22 Here, Plaintiffs' counsel collectively spent 14,304.09 hours of attorney and
23 paraprofessional time prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class. *See* Declaration
24 of Andrew J. Brown Filed on Behalf of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP in
25 Support of Application for Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses (“Lead Counsel's
26 Fee Decl.”), ¶4; and Declaration of Jerry E. Martin Filed on Behalf of Barrett

27 ⁸ If any objections are received, Lead Counsel will address them in a reply brief to
28 be filed on or before September 11, 2015, in accordance with the Court's Preliminary
Approval Order.

1 Johnston Martin & Garrison, LLC in Support of Application for Award of Attorneys’
2 Fees and Expenses (“Martin Decl.”), ¶4, submitted to the Court herewith. The
3 resulting lodestar is \$7,390,228.35. *Id.* The requested fee of 22% would equal
4 \$8,360,000. Thus, the requested fee represents a modest multiplier of less than 1.2.
5 In *Vizcaino*, the Ninth Circuit approved a 28% fee that resulted in a 3.65 multiplier.
6 290 F.3d at 1052-54 (finding multipliers ranged as high as 19.6 though most run from
7 1.0-4.0); *see also In re Sumitomo Copper Litig.*, 74 F. Supp. 2d 393, 399 (S.D.N.Y.
8 1999) (“‘In recent years multipliers of between 3 and 4.5 have been common’ in
9 federal securities cases.”); *Maley v. Del Global Techs. Corp.*, 186 F. Supp. 2d 358,
10 371 (S.D.N.Y. 2002) (“modest multiplier of 4.65 is fair and reasonable”); *Xcel*, 364 F.
11 Supp. 2d at 998-99 (awarding 25% of \$80 million settlement fund, representing a 4.7
12 multiplier); *In re Rite Aid Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 269 F. Supp. 2d 603, 611 (E.D. Pa. 2003)
13 (awarding fee equal to a multiplier of 4.07 and recognizing that “‘multipliers in this
14 range are fairly common’”), *vacated on other grounds*, 396 F.3d 294 (3d Cir. 2005).
15 Accordingly, the multiplier is on the low-end of the range of multipliers typically
16 awarded by courts in conducting a lodestar cross check and supports the
17 reasonableness of the requested fees.

18 **III. PLAINTIFFS’ COUNSEL’S EXPENSES ARE REASONABLE**
19 **AND WERE NECESSARILY INCURRED TO ACHIEVE THE**
20 **BENEFIT OBTAINED**

21 Plaintiffs’ counsel also request payment of expenses incurred by them in
22 connection with the prosecution of this Litigation. Plaintiffs’ counsel have incurred
23 expenses in the aggregate amount of \$627,594.92 in prosecuting this Litigation.
24 These expenses are categorized in Lead Counsel’s Fee Declaration and the Martin
25 Declaration. The expenses requested are approximately 1.7% of the Settlement Fund.
26 As set forth in the 2015 NERA Study, for cases that settled between 1996 and 2014,
27 the median amount of expenses for settlements in the \$25 million to \$100 million
28 range was 1.9%. *See* 2015 NERA Study at 34, Figure 29.

1 The appropriate analysis to apply in deciding which expenses are compensable
2 in a common fund case of this type is whether the particular costs are of the type
3 typically billed by attorneys to paying clients in the marketplace. *Harris v.*
4 *Marhoefer*, 24 F.3d 16, 19 (9th Cir. 1994) (“Harris may recover as part of the award
5 of attorney’s fees those out-of-pocket expenses that ‘would normally be charged to a
6 fee paying client.’”). Therefore, it is proper to pay reasonable expenses even though
7 they are greater than taxable costs. *Id.*; see also *Bratcher v. Bray-Doyle Indep. Sch.*
8 *Dist. No. 42*, 8 F.3d 722, 725-26 (10th Cir. 1993) (expenses reimbursable if they
9 would normally be billed to client); *Abrams v. Lightolier Inc.*, 50 F.3d 1204, 1225 (3d
10 Cir. 1995) (expenses recoverable if customary to bill clients for them); *Miltland*
11 *Raleigh-Durham v. Myers*, 840 F. Supp. 235, 239 (S.D.N.Y. 1993) (“Attorneys may
12 be compensated for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred and customarily
13 charged to their clients, as long as they ‘were incidental and necessary to the
14 representation’ of those clients.”). The categories of expenses for which counsel seek
15 payment for here are the type of expenses routinely charged to hourly clients and,
16 therefore, should be paid out of the common fund.

17 A significant component of Lead Counsel’s expenses is the cost of its financial
18 consultant/expert and private investigator. In the post-PSLRA era, the use of
19 professional investigators to gather detailed fact-specific information from percipient
20 witnesses in order to plead complaints that will survive motions to dismiss is a
21 necessity. Lead Counsel engaged the services of L.R. Hodges & Associates, Ltd.
22 (“L.R. Hodges”) to assist counsel. L.R. Hodges conducted a substantial amount of
23 work on behalf of the Class. Lead Counsel’s Fee Decl., ¶6(e)(iii).

24 Lead Counsel also incurred the expense of Professor Steven P. Feinstein, Ph.D.,
25 CFA of Crowninshield Financial Research, Inc., an economic consulting firm that
26 specializes in financial and economic issues that typically arise in securities class
27 actions. *Id.*, ¶6(e)(ii). Dr. Feinstein’s services in this Litigation were necessary and
28 contributed materially to the benefits achieved for the Class, including the submission

1 of an expert declaration on the efficiency of the market for Questcor common stock
2 during the Class Period in connection with Plaintiffs' motion for class certification.
3 Dr. Feinstein also submitted a 42-page expert report on loss causation and damages.
4 Lead Counsel also engaged the services of Joel W. Hay, Ph.D. as an industry expert to
5 opine on whether Questcor's business practices complied with pharmaceutical
6 industry standards. Dr. Hay, among other things, submitted a detailed 105-page
7 expert report and spent significant time reviewing expert reports submitted by
8 Defendants and advising Lead Counsel how to rebut the conclusions drawn by those
9 experts. *Id.*, ¶6(e)(i).

10 Other expenses include the costs of computerized research. These are the
11 charges for computerized factual and legal research services, including LexisNexis,
12 Westlaw, Courtlink, Thomson Financial, Pacer, and Caliber Advisors, Inc. It is
13 standard practice for attorneys to use these services to assist them in researching legal
14 and factual issues. These services allowed counsel to access Questcor's SEC filings,
15 perform media searches on Questcor, and obtain analysts' reports on Questcor.

16 Plaintiffs' counsel were also required to travel in connection with this Litigation
17 and thus incurred the related costs of meals, lodging, and transportation. This
18 included travel to attend court hearings, take or defend depositions, meet with
19 witnesses, and attend the mediation. Other expenses that were necessarily incurred in
20 the prosecution of this Litigation include expenses for photocopying, mediation fees,
21 filing fees, postage and delivery, and telephone expenses. Lead Counsel also incurred
22 in-house database management charges for the management of the database of more
23 than 1.6 million pages of documents produced by Defendants and third parties. Using
24 an in-house system allowed Robbins Geller to prosecute this action more efficiently
25 and has reduced the expense associated with maintaining an electronic database which
26 benefits the Class.

27
28

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 Based on the foregoing and upon the entire record herein, Lead Counsel
3 respectfully submits that the Court award attorneys' fees in the amount of 22% of the
4 Settlement Amount, plus expenses in the amount of \$627,594.92, plus interest earned
5 at the same rate and for the same period as that earned on that portion of the
6 Settlement Amount until paid.

7 DATED: August 7, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

8 **ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN**
9 **& DOWD LLP**
10 **ANDREW J. BROWN**
11 **THOMAS E. EGLER**
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 7, 2015, I authorized the electronic filing of the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the attached Electronic Mail Notice List, and I hereby certify that I caused to be mailed the foregoing document or paper via the United States Postal Service to the non-CM/ECF participants indicated on the attached Manual Notice List.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on August 7, 2015.

s/ Andrew J. Brown
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Mailing Information for a Case 8:12-cv-01623-DMG-JPR In re Questcor Securities Litigation

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Responses, Replies and Other Motion Related Documents

[8:12-cv-01623-DMG-JPR In re Questcor Securities Litigation](#)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT for the CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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The following transaction was entered by Brown, Andrew on 8/7/2015 at 5:41 PM PDT and filed on 8/7/2015

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Case Number: [8:12-cv-01623-DMG-JPR](#)
Filer: Steven Glucksberg
Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund
West Virginia Investment Management Board
Document Number: [244](#)

Docket Text:

MEMORANDUM in Support of NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION for Attorney Fees and Expenses[243] filed by Consol Plaintiffs Steven Glucksberg, Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund, West Virginia Investment Management Board. (Brown, Andrew)

8:12-cv-01623-DMG-JPR Notice has been electronically mailed to:

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