UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, Civil No. 1:17-CV-01940-RC

CLASS ACTION

Plaintiff,

ADVISORY BOARD COMPANY, ROBERT W. MUSSLEWHITE, and MICHAEL T. KIRSHBAUM,

vs.

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY AND PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION

TO: ALL PERSONS WHO PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED THE COMMON STOCK OF ADVISORY BOARD COMPANY ("ADVISORY BOARD" OR THE "COMPANY") DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN MAY 6, 2015 THROUGH AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 23, 2016, AND ARE NOT OTHERWISE EXCLUDED FROM THE CLASS

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY PROCEEDINGS IN THIS ACTION. PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO SHARE IN THE PROCEEDS OF THE SETTLEMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE. TO CLAIM YOUR SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS, YOU MUST SUBMIT A VALID PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE FORM ("PROOF OF CLAIM") **POSTMARKED OR SUBMITTED ONLINE ON OR BEFORE MAY 26, 2020**.

This Notice of Pendency and Proposed Settlement of Class Action ("Notice") has been sent to you pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Order of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (the "Court"). The purpose of this Notice is to inform you of the pendency of this class action (the "Litigation") between Lead Plaintiffs City of Atlanta Firefighters' Pension Fund and City of Atlanta Police Officers' Pension Fund and Defendants Advisory Board, Robert W. Musslewhite and Michael T. Kirshbaum ("Defendants") and the proposed \$7,500,000 settlement reached therein (the "Settlement") and of the hearing to be held by the Court to consider the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement as well as counsel's application for fees and expenses. This Notice describes what steps you may take in relation to the Settlement and this class action.¹

This Notice is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an expression of any opinion by the Court with respect to the truth of the allegations in the Litigation as to any of the Defendants or the merits of the claims or defenses asserted by or against the Defendants. This Notice is solely to advise you of the proposed Settlement of the Litigation and of your rights in connection therewith.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	The only way to be eligible to receive a payment from the Settlement. Proof of Claim forms must be postmarked or submitted online on or before May 26, 2020.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	Get no payment. This is the only option that <i>potentially</i> allows you to ever be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendants or any other Released Persons about the legal claims being resolved by this Settlement. Should you elect to exclude yourself from the Class you should understand that Defendants and the other Released Defendant Parties will have the right to assert any and all defenses they may have to any claims that you may seek to assert, including, without limitation, the defense that any such claims are untimely under applicable

¹ All capitalized terms used in this Notice that are not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings provided in the Stipulation of Settlement dated December 6, 2019 (the "Settlement Agreement" or "Stipulation"), which is available on the website www.AdvisoryBoardSecuritiesSettlement.com.

	statutes of limitations and statutes of repose. Exclusions must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2020.
OBJECT	Write to the Court about why you do not like the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the request for attorneys' fees and expenses. You will still be a Member of the Class. Objections must be <i>received</i> by the Court and counsel on or before April 15, 2020. If you submit a written objection, you may (but do not have to) attend the hearing.
GO TO THE HEARING ON	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement. Requests to speak
MAY 6, 2020	must be <i>received</i> by the Court and counsel on or before April 15, 2020.
DO NOTHING	Receive no payment. You will, however, still be a Member of the Class, which means that you give up your right to ever be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendants or any other Released Defendant Parties about the legal claims being resolved by this Settlement and you will be bound by any judgments or orders entered by the Court in the Litigation.

SUMMARY OF THIS NOTICE

Statement of Class Recovery

Pursuant to the Settlement described herein, a \$7.5 million settlement has been established. Based on Lead Plaintiffs' estimate of the number of shares of Advisory Board common stock eligible to recover under the Settlement, the average distribution per share under the Plan of Allocation is approximately \$1.05 per share before deduction of any taxes on the income earned on the Settlement Amount thereof, notice and administration costs, and the attorneys' fees and expenses as determined by the Court. **Class Members should note, however, that these are only estimates.** A Class Member's actual recovery will be a proportion of the Net Settlement Fund determined by that claimant's claims as compared to the total claims of all Class Members who submit acceptable Proofs of Claim. An individual Class Member may receive more or less than this estimated average amount. *See* Plan of Allocation set forth and discussed at pages 9-12 below for more information on the calculation of your claim.

Statement of Potential Outcome of Case

The Settling Parties disagree on both liability and damages and do not agree on the amount of damages that would be recoverable if the Class prevailed on each claim alleged. Defendants deny that they are liable to the Class and deny that the Class has suffered any damages. The issues on which the parties disagree are many, but include: (1) whether Defendants engaged in conduct that would give rise to any liability to the Class under the federal securities laws, or any other laws; (2) whether Defendants have valid defenses to any such claims of liability; (3) the appropriate economic model for determining the amount by which the price of Advisory Board common stock was allegedly artificially inflated (if at all) during the Settlement Class Period; (4) the amount, if any, by which the price of Advisory Board common stock was allegedly artificially inflated (if at all) during the Settlement Class Period; (5) the effect of various market forces on the price of Advisory Board common stock at various times during the Settlement Class Period; (7) the extent to which the various matters that Lead Plaintiffs alleged were materially false or misleading influenced (if at all) the price of Advisory Board common stock at various times during the Settlement Class Period; (6) the extent Class Period; (7) the extent to which the various matters that Lead Plaintiffs alleged were materially false or misleading influenced (if at all) the price of Advisory Board common stock at various times during the Settlement Class Period; (and (8) the extent to which the various allegedly adverse material facts that Lead Plaintiffs alleged were omitted influenced (if at all) the price of Advisory Board common stock at various times during the Settlement Class Period; (and (b) the extent to which the various allegedly adverse material facts that Lead Plaintiffs alleged were omitted influenced (if at all) the price of Advisory Board common stock at various times during the Settlement Class Period.

Statement of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses Sought

Since the action's inception, Lead Counsel has expended considerable time and effort in the prosecution of this Litigation on a wholly contingent basis and has advanced the expenses of the Litigation in the expectation that if it was successful in obtaining a recovery for the Class, it would be paid from such recovery. Lead Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the Settlement Amount, plus expenses not to exceed \$60,000, plus interest earned on both amounts at the same rate as earned by the Settlement Fund. If the amounts requested are approved by the Court, the average cost per share of Advisory Board common stock will be approximately \$0.28. In addition, Lead Plaintiffs may seek payment for their time and expenses incurred in representing the Class.

Further Information

For further information regarding the Litigation, this Notice or to review the Stipulation of Settlement, please contact the Claims Administrator toll-free at 1-866-515-4708 or visit the website www.AdvisoryBoardSecuritiesSettlement.com.

You may also contact a representative of counsel for the Class: Rick Nelson, Shareholder Relations, Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101, 1-800-449-4900, www.rgrdlaw.com.

Please Do Not Call the Court or Defendants with Questions About the Settlement.

Reasons for the Settlement

Lead Plaintiffs' principal reason for entering into the Settlement is the benefit to the Class now, without further risk or the delays inherent in continued litigation. The cash benefit under the Settlement must be considered against the significant risk that a smaller recovery – or, indeed, no recovery at all – might be achieved after contested motions, trial, and likely appeals, a process that could last several years into the future. For the Defendants, who have denied and continue to deny all allegations of liability, fault, or wrongdoing whatsoever, the principal reason for entering into the Settlement is to eliminate the uncertainty, risk, costs, and burdens inherent in any litigation, especially in complex cases such as this Litigation. Defendants have concluded that further conduct of this Litigation could be protracted and distracting.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I get this Notice package?

This Notice was sent to you pursuant to an Order of a U.S. District Court because you or someone in your family or an investment account for which you serve as custodian may have purchased or otherwise acquired Advisory Board common stock during the period from May 6, 2015, through and including February 23, 2016 ("Settlement Class Period").

This Notice explains the class action lawsuit, the Settlement, Class Members' legal rights in connection with the Settlement, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them.

The Court in charge of the Litigation is the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and the case is known as *Plymouth County Retirement Association v. Advisory Board Company, et al.*, No. 1:17-cv-01940-RC. The case has been assigned to the Honorable Rudolph Contreras. The entities representing the Class are the "Lead Plaintiffs," and the company and individuals they sued and who have now settled are called the Defendants.

2. What is this lawsuit about?

The Litigation is currently pending before the Honorable Rudolph Contreras in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (the "Court"). The initial complaint was filed on August 3, 2017 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (the "New York Action"). A subsequent complaint was filed in this Court on September 22, 2017. On December 15, 2017, the New York Action was voluntarily dismissed. On October 27, 2017, the Court appointed City of Atlanta Firefighters' Pension Fund and City of Atlanta Police Officers' Pension Fund as Lead Plaintiffs and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP ("Robbins Geller") as Lead Counsel.

Lead Plaintiffs' Amended Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws (the "Complaint"), filed on January 9, 2018, alleges that Defendants violated §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by issuing materially false and misleading statements and omitting material information concerning Advisory Board's integration with its acquisition of Royall & Company ("Royall") and its year-end guidance.

On March 9, 2018, Defendants moved to dismiss the Complaint. Lead Plaintiffs filed their opposition to the motion on May 23, 2018, and Defendants filed their reply brief on June 29, 2018. On March 29, 2019, the Court issued its Memorandum Opinion Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendants' Motion to Dismiss.

On September 25, 2019, Defendants and Lead Plaintiffs participated in an in-person mediation session with Michelle Yoshida, Esq., an experienced mediator. The mediation was preceded by submission of mediation statements by the Settling Parties. The Settling Parties engaged in arm's-length negotiations during the mediation session, but were unable to reach an agreement. Following the mediation, the Settling Parties continued settlement

discussions through Ms. Yoshida. On September 27, 2019, the Settling Parties reached an agreement in principle to resolve the Litigation. The agreement included, among other things, the Settling Parties' agreement to settle the Litigation in return for a cash payment of \$7,500,000 for the benefit of the Class, subject to the negotiation of the terms of a Stipulation of Settlement and approval by the Court. The Stipulation (together with the Exhibits thereto) reflects the final and binding agreement between the Settling Parties.

Defendants deny each and all of the claims and contentions of wrongdoing alleged by Lead Plaintiffs in the Litigation. Defendants contend that they did not make any materially false or misleading statements, that they disclosed all material information required to be disclosed by the federal securities laws, and that any alleged misstatements or omissions were not made with the requisite intent or knowledge of wrongdoing. Defendants also contend that any losses allegedly suffered by Members of the Class were not caused by any allegedly false or misleading statements by them and/or were caused by intervening events. Defendants also maintain that they have meritorious defenses to all claims that were raised or could have been raised in the Litigation.

3. Why is there a settlement?

The Court has not decided in favor of Defendants or of the Lead Plaintiffs. Instead, both sides agreed to the Settlement to avoid the distraction, costs, and risks of further litigation, and Lead Plaintiffs agreed to the Settlement in order to ensure that Class Members will receive compensation.

WHO IS IN THE SETTLEMENT

4. How do I know if I am a Member of the Class?

The Court directed that everyone who fits this description is a Class Member: all Persons who purchased or otherwise acquired Advisory Board common stock during the period from May 6, 2015, through and including February 23, 2016, except those Persons and entities that are excluded.

Excluded from the Class are: Defendants and their immediate families, the officers and directors and affiliates of Advisory Board during the Settlement Class Period, and the legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns of any of the foregoing, as well as any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest. Also excluded from the Class are those Persons who timely and validly exclude themselves therefrom by submitting a request for exclusion in accordance with the requirements set forth in question 11 below.

Please Note: Receipt of this Notice does not mean that you are a Class Member or that you will be entitled to receive a payment from the Settlement. If you are a Class Member and you wish to be eligible to participate in the distribution of proceeds from the Settlement, you are required to submit the Proof of Claim that is being distributed with this Notice and the required supporting documentation as set forth therein postmarked or submitted online on or before May 26, 2020.

5. What if I am still not sure if I am included?

If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can ask for free help. You can contact the Claims Administrator toll-free at 1-866-515-4708, or you can fill out and return the Proof of Claim form enclosed with this Notice package, to see if you qualify.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS – WHAT YOU GET

6. What does the Settlement provide?

The Settlement provides that, in exchange for the release of the Released Claims (defined below) and dismissal of the Litigation, Defendants have agreed to pay (or cause to be paid) \$7.5 million in cash to be distributed after taxes, tax expenses, notice and claims administration expenses, and approved fees and expenses, *pro rata*, to Class Members who send in a valid Proof of Claim form pursuant to the Court-approved Plan of Allocation. The Plan of Allocation is described in more detail at the end of this Notice.

7. How much will my payment be?

Your share of the Net Settlement Fund will depend on several things, including the total amount of claims represented by the valid Proof of Claim forms that Class Members send in, compared to the amount of your claim, all as calculated under the Plan of Allocation discussed below.

HOW YOU GET A PAYMENT – SUBMITTING A CLAIM FORM

8. How can I get a payment?

To be eligible to receive a payment from the Settlement, you must submit a Proof of Claim form. A Proof of Claim form is enclosed with this Notice or it may be downloaded at www.AdvisoryBoardSecuritiesSettlement.com. Read the instructions carefully, fill out the Proof of Claim, include all the documents the form asks for, sign it, and **mail or submit it online so that it is postmarked or received no later than May 26, 2020.** The Proof of Claim form may be submitted online at www.AdvisoryBoardSecuritiesSettlement.com.

9. When would I get my payment?

The Court will hold a Settlement Hearing on May 6, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, there might be appeals. It is always uncertain whether appeals can be resolved, and if so, how long it would take to resolve them. It also takes time for all the Proofs of Claim to be processed. Please be patient.

10. What am I giving up to get a payment or to stay in the Class?

Unless you timely and validly exclude yourself, you are staying in the Class, and that means you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants or their Related Parties about the Released Claims (as defined below) in this case. It also means that all of the Court's orders will apply to you and legally bind you. If you remain a Class Member, and if the Settlement is approved, you will give up all "Released Claims" (as defined below), including "Unknown Claims" (as defined below), against the "Released Persons" (as defined below):

- "Released Claims" means any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, debts, penalties, costs, expenses, fees, injunctive relief, attorneys' fees, expert or consulting fees, prejudgment interest, indemnities, duties, liabilities, obligations, rights and causes of action of every nature and description, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, whether arising under federal, state, common, or foreign law, by Lead Plaintiffs, any Class Member or their successors, assigns, executors, administrators, representatives, attorneys and agents, in their capacities as such, whether brought directly or indirectly against any of the Released Defendant Parties, that have been or could have been asserted in the Litigation or could in the future be asserted in any forum, whether foreign or domestic, and which arise out of or relate in any way to (a) any of the allegations, transactions, events, disclosures, statements, facts, matters, public filings, occurrences, representations, failures to act, acts or omissions that were asserted or could have been asserted by Lead Plaintiffs or Class Members in this Litigation; and (b) the purchase or acquisition of Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement Class Period. "Released Claims" does not include claims to enforce the Settlement. "Released Claims" includes "Unknown Claims" as defined below.
- "Released Defendants' Claims" means any and all claims and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, including both known claims and Unknown Claims, against Lead Plaintiffs, Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel or any Class Member that arise out of or relate in any way to the institution, prosecution, or settlement of the claims against Defendants in the Litigation, except for claims relating to the enforcement of the Settlement.
- "Released Persons" means each and all of the Defendants, Defendants' Counsel and their Related Parties.
- "Related Parties" means each Defendant's respective former, present or future parents, subsidiaries, divisions, controlling persons, associates, related entities and affiliates and each and all of their respective present and former employees, members, partners, principals, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, agents, attorneys, advisors (including financial or investment advisors), accountants, auditors, consultants, underwriters, investment bankers, commercial bankers, entities providing fairness opinions, general or limited partners or partnerships, limited liability companies, members, joint ventures and insurers and reinsurers of each of them; and the predecessors, successors, estates, immediate family members, spouses, heirs, executors, trusts, trustees, administrators, agents, legal or personal representatives, assigns, and assignees of each of them, in their capacity as such.

"Unknown Claims" means (a) any and all Released Claims which any of the Releasing Plaintiff Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of the Released Defendant Parties, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement with and release of the Released Defendant Parties, or might have affected his, her, or its decision(s) with respect to the Settlement, including, but not limited to, whether or not to object to this Settlement or seek exclusion from the Class; and (b) any and all Released Defendants' Claims that any of the Released Defendant Parties do not know or suspect to exist in his, her, or its favor at the time of the release of the Lead Plaintiffs, the Class and Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel, which, if known by him, her, or it, might have affected his, her, or its settlement and release of Lead Plaintiffs, the Class and Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel. With respect to (a) any and all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, and (b) any and all Released Defendants' Claims against Lead Plaintiffs, the Class and Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel, the Settling Parties stipulate and agree that, upon the Effective Date, the Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have expressly waived, the provisions, rights, and benefits of California Civil Code §1542, which provides:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

The Settling Parties shall expressly waive, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party and Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, expressly waived any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to California Civil Code §1542. The Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties acknowledge that they may hereafter discover facts, legal theories or authorities in addition to or different from those which he, she, it or their counsel now knows or believes to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims or Released Defendants' Claims, but (a) the Releasing Plaintiff Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish and release, and each Releasing Plaintiff Party shall be deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Claims against the Released Defendant Parties, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, accrued or unaccrued, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, or may hereafter exist, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities, and (b) the Released Defendant Parties shall expressly fully, finally, and forever waive, compromise, settle, discharge, extinguish and release, and each Released Defendant Party shall be deemed to have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, and upon the Effective Date, and by operation of the Judgment shall have waived, compromised, settled, discharged, extinguished, and released, fully, finally, and forever, any and all Released Defendant Claims against the Lead Plaintiffs, the Class and Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts, legal theories, or authorities. The Settling Parties acknowledge, and the Releasing Plaintiff Parties and Released Defendant Parties shall be deemed by operation of the Judgment to have acknowledged, that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and is an essential element of the Settlement of which this release is a part.

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE CLASS

If you do not want to participate in this Settlement, and you want to keep the right to potentially sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons, on your own, about the claims being released by the Settlement, then you must take steps to remove yourself from the Settlement. This is called excluding yourself – or is sometimes referred to as "opting out." If you are requesting exclusion because you want to bring your own lawsuit based on the matters alleged in this Litigation, you may want to consult an attorney and discuss whether any individual claim that you may wish to pursue would be time-barred by the applicable statutes of limitation or repose.

11. How do I get out of the Class and the proposed Settlement?

To exclude yourself from the Class and the Settlement, you must send a letter by First-Class Mail stating that you "request exclusion from the Class in the *Advisory Board Securities Settlement*." Your letter must include your purchases or acquisitions of Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement Class Period, including the dates, the number of shares of Advisory Board common stock purchased or acquired, and price paid for each such purchase or acquisition. In addition, you must include your name, address, telephone number, and your signature. You must submit your exclusion request so that it is **postmarked no later than April 15, 2020** to:

Advisory Board Securities Settlement Claims Administrator c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC EXCLUSIONS 3301 Kerner Blvd. San Rafael, CA 94901

If you ask to be excluded, you will not get any payment from the Settlement, and you cannot object to the Settlement. You will not be legally bound by anything that happens in this lawsuit, and you may be able to sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons about the Released Claims in the future.

12. If I do not exclude myself, can I sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons for the same thing later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any rights you may potentially have to sue the Defendants and the other Released Persons for any and all Released Claims. If you have a pending lawsuit against the Released Persons, speak to your lawyer in that case immediately. You must exclude yourself from the Class in this Litigation to continue your own lawsuit. Remember, the exclusion deadline is April 15, 2020.

13. If I exclude myself, can I get money from the proposed Settlement?

No. If you exclude yourself, you should not send in a Proof of Claim to ask for any money. But you may have the right to potentially sue or be part of a different lawsuit against the Defendants and the other Released Persons.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

14. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

The Court ordered that the law firm of Robbins Geller represents the Class Members, including you. These lawyers are called Lead Counsel. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

15. How will the lawyers be paid?

Lead Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the Settlement Amount and for expenses, costs and charges in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 in connection with the Litigation, plus interest on such fees and expenses at the same rate as earned by the Settlement Fund. In addition, Lead Plaintiffs may seek up to \$10,000 in the aggregate for their time and expenses incurred in representing the Class. Such sums as may be approved by the Court will be paid from the Settlement Fund.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

You can tell the Court that you do not agree with the Settlement or any part of it.

16. How do I tell the Court that I object to the proposed Settlement?

If you are a Class Member, you can comment on or object to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation and/or Lead Counsel's fee and expense application. You can write to the Court setting out your comment or objection. The Court will consider your views. To comment or object, you must send a signed letter saying that you wish to comment on or object to the proposed Settlement in the *Advisory Board Securities Settlement*. Include your name, address, telephone number, and your signature, identify the date(s), price(s), and number of shares of Advisory Board common stock you purchased, acquired, and sold during the Settlement Class Period, and state with specificity your comments or the reasons why you object to the proposed Settlement, Plan of Allocation and/or fee and expense application, including any legal support for such objection. Any objection must state whether it applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the Class, or to the entire Class. You must also include copies of documents demonstrating such purchase(s), acquisition(s), and/or sale(s). Your comments or objection must be filed with the Court and mailed or delivered to each of the following addresses such that it is **received no later than April 15, 2020:**

COURT

LEAD COUNSEL

CLERK OF THE COURT UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse 333 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001

ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP ELLEN GUSIKOFF STEWART 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900 San Diego, CA 92101

DEFENDANTS' COUNSEL

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP SCOTT D. MUSOFF Four Times Square New York, NY 10036

17. What is the difference between objecting and excluding?

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlement. You can object **only** if you stay in the Class.

Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you do not want to be paid and do not want to release any claims you think you may have against Defendants and their Related Parties. If you exclude yourself, you cannot object to the Settlement because it does not affect you.

THE COURT'S SETTLEMENT HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed Settlement. You may attend and you may ask to speak, but you do not have to.

18. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the proposed Settlement?

The Court will hold a Settlement Hearing at 2:30 p.m., on May 6, 2020, in the Courtroom of the Honorable Rudolph Contreras, at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse, 333 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. At the hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement and the Plan of Allocation are fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them, even if you do not ask to speak at the hearing. The Court will listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing. The Court may also decide how much to pay to Lead Counsel and Lead Plaintiffs. After the Settlement Hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement and the Plan of Allocation. We do not know how long these decisions will take. You should be aware that the Court may change the date and time of the Settlement Hearing without another notice being sent to Class Members. If you want to attend the hearing, vou should check with Lead Counsel or the Settlement website www.AdvisoryBoardSecuritiesSettlement.com beforehand to be sure that the date and/or time has not changed.

19. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Lead Counsel will answer questions the Court may have. But, you are welcome to come at your own expense. If you send an objection, you do not have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you mailed your

written objection on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend, but it is not necessary. Class Members do not need to appear at the hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval.

20. May I speak at the hearing?

If you object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or the fee and expense application, you may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Settlement Hearing. To do so, you must include with your objection (see question 16 above) a statement saying that it is your "Notice of Intention to Appear in the *Advisory Board Securities Settlement*." Persons who intend to object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or any attorneys' fees and expenses to be awarded to Lead Counsel or Lead Plaintiffs and desire to present evidence at the Settlement Hearing must include in their written objections the identity of any witnesses they may call to testify and exhibits they intend to introduce into evidence at the Settlement Hearing. Your notice of intention to appear must be *received* no later than April 15, 2020, and addressed to the Clerk of Court, Lead Counsel, and Defendants' Counsel, at the addresses listed above in question 16.

You cannot speak at the hearing if you exclude yourself from the Class.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

21. What happens if I do nothing?

If you do nothing, you will not receive any money from this Settlement. In addition, unless you exclude yourself, you will not be able to start a lawsuit, continue with a lawsuit, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants and their Related Parties about the Released Claims in this case.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

22. How do I get more information?

For even more detailed information concerning the matters involved in this Litigation, you can obtain answers to common questions regarding the proposed Settlement by contacting the Claims Administrator toll-free at 1-866-515-4708. Reference is also made to the Settlement Agreement, to the pleadings in support of the Settlement, to the Orders entered by the Court and to the other settlement-related papers filed in the Litigation, which are posted on the Settlement website at www.AdvisoryBoardSecuritiesSettlement.com, and which may be inspected at the Office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, during regular business hours. For a fee, all papers filed in this Litigation are available at www.pacer.gov.

PLAN OF ALLOCATION OF NET SETTLEMENT FUND AMONG CLASS MEMBERS

The Settlement Amount of \$7.5 million and any interest earned thereon is the "Settlement Fund." The Settlement Fund, less all taxes, tax expenses, notice and claims administration expenses, and approved fees and expenses (the "Net Settlement Fund") shall be distributed to Class Members who submit timely and valid Proof of Claim forms to the Claims Administrator ("Authorized Claimants"). The Plan of Allocation provides that you will be eligible to participate in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund only if you have an overall net loss on all of your transactions in Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement Class Period.

The objective of the Plan of Allocation is to equitably distribute the Net Settlement Fund among Class Members based on their respective alleged economic losses resulting from the securities law violations alleged in the Litigation.

The Claims Administrator shall determine each Class Member's share of the Net Settlement Fund based upon the recognized loss formula (the "Recognized Loss") described below. A Recognized Loss will be calculated for each share of Advisory Board common stock purchased or otherwise acquired during the Settlement Class Period. The calculation of Recognized Loss will depend upon several factors, including when the Advisory Board stock was purchased or otherwise acquired and in what amounts, whether the shares were sold, and, if so, when they were sold and for what amounts.

The Recognized Loss is not intended to estimate the amount a Class Member may have been able to recover after a trial, nor to estimate the amount you will receive. It is a formula for allocating the Net Settlement Fund among all Authorized Claimants. The allocation below is based on the following inflation per share amounts for Settlement Class Period common stock purchases, acquisitions, and sales as well as the statutory PSLRA 90

day-look back amount of \$31.04. Furthermore, if any of the formulas set forth below yield an amount less than \$0.00, the claim per share shall be \$0.00.

A "claim" will be calculated as follows:

The Advisory Board Company CUSIP: 00762W107

Inflation Period	Inflation per Share
May 6, 2015 – August 4, 2015	\$22.16
August 5, 2015 – February 23, 2016	\$9.79

For shares of Advisory Board common stock purchased, or acquired, on or between May 6, 2015 through and including February 23, 2016, the claim per share shall be as follows:

a) If sold prior to August 5, 2015, the claim per share is \$0.00.

b) If sold on or between August 5, 2015 through and including February 23, 2016, the claim per share shall be the lesser of: (i) the inflation per share at the time of purchase less the inflation per share at the time of sale; and (ii) the difference between the purchase price and the selling price.

c) If retained at the end of February 23, 2016 and sold on or before May 23, 2016, the claim per share shall be the least of: (i) the inflation per share at the time of purchase; (ii) the difference between the purchase price and the selling price; and (iii) the difference between the purchase price and the average closing price up to the date of sale as set forth in the table below.

d) If retained at the close of trading on May 23, 2016, or sold on or before January 6, 2020, the claim per share shall be the least of: (i) the inflation per share at the time of purchase; (ii) the difference between the purchase price and the selling price; and (iii) the difference between the purchase price and \$31.04.

Date	Price	Average Closing Price
2/24/2016	\$26.50	\$26.50
2/25/2016	\$27.81	\$27.16
2/26/2016	\$29.40	\$27.90
2/29/2016	\$29.49	\$28.30
3/1/2016	\$29.82	\$28.60
3/2/2016	\$28.20	\$28.54
3/3/2016	\$28.25	\$28.50
3/4/2016	\$29.77	\$28.66
3/7/2016	\$30.30	\$28.84
3/8/2016	\$29.29	\$28.88
3/9/2016	\$28.50	\$28.85
3/10/2016	\$28.66	\$28.83
3/11/2016	\$28.59	\$28.81
3/14/2016	\$29.02	\$28.83
3/15/2016	\$28.22	\$28.79
3/16/2016	\$27.79	\$28.73
3/17/2016	\$29.17	\$28.75

Date	Price	Average Closing Price
3/18/2016	\$30.25	\$28.84
3/21/2016	\$30.73	\$28.93
3/22/2016	\$30.74	\$29.03
3/23/2016	\$30.39	\$29.09
3/24/2016	\$30.63	\$29.16
3/28/2016	\$30.71	\$29.23
3/29/2016	\$32.20	\$29.35
3/30/2016	\$31.93	\$29.45
3/31/2016	\$32.25	\$29.56
4/1/2016	\$32.76	\$29.68
4/4/2016	\$32.51	\$29.78
4/5/2016	\$32.35	\$29.87
4/6/2016	\$32.69	\$29.96
4/7/2016	\$32.00	\$30.03
4/8/2016	\$31.81	\$30.09
4/11/2016	\$31.48	\$30.13
4/12/2016	\$31.28	\$30.16

Date	Price	Average Closing Price
4/13/2016	\$32.02	\$30.21
4/14/2016	\$31.85	\$30.26
4/15/2016	\$33.05	\$30.34
4/18/2016	\$32.37	\$30.39
4/19/2016	\$31.70	\$30.42
4/20/2016	\$31.72	\$30.46
4/21/2016	\$31.49	\$30.48
4/22/2016	\$31.89	\$30.51
4/25/2016	\$31.47	\$30.54
4/26/2016	\$31.49	\$30.56
4/27/2016	\$31.44	\$30.58
4/28/2016	\$31.73	\$30.60
4/29/2016	\$31.64	\$30.62
5/2/2016	\$31.61	\$30.65
5/3/2016	\$30.49	\$30.64

Date	Price	Average Closing Price
5/4/2016	\$30.44	\$30.64
5/5/2016	\$29.34	\$30.61
5/6/2016	\$32.89	\$30.66
5/9/2016	\$33.91	\$30.72
5/10/2016	\$33.75	\$30.77
5/11/2016	\$33.57	\$30.82
5/12/2016	\$33.59	\$30.87
5/13/2016	\$33.52	\$30.92
5/16/2016	\$33.42	\$30.96
5/17/2016	\$32.70	\$30.99
5/18/2016	\$32.10	\$31.01
5/19/2016	\$31.28	\$31.02
5/20/2016	\$32.43	\$31.04
5/23/2016	\$31.29	\$31.04

The date of purchase or sale is the "contract" or "trade" date as distinguished from the "settlement" date.

For Class Members who held Advisory Board common stock at the beginning of the Settlement Class Period or made multiple purchases, acquisitions, or sales during the Settlement Class Period, the First-In, First-Out ("FIFO") method will be applied to such holdings, purchases, acquisitions, and sales for purposes of calculating a claim. Under the FIFO method, sales of Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement Class Period will be matched, in chronological order, first against shares of common stock held at the beginning of the Settlement Class Period. The remaining sales of common stock during the Settlement Class Period will then be matched, in chronological order, against common stock purchased or acquired during the Settlement Class Period.

A Class Member will be eligible to receive a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund only if a Class Member had a net overall loss, after all profits from transactions in all Advisory Board common stock described above during the Settlement Class Period are subtracted from all losses. However, the proceeds from sales of common stock that have been matched against the common stock held at the beginning of the Settlement Class Period will not be used in the calculation of such net loss. No distributions will be made to Authorized Claimants who would otherwise receive a distribution of less than \$10.00.

A purchase, acquisition or sale of Advisory Board common stock shall be deemed to have occurred on the "contract" or "trade" date as opposed to the "settlement" or "payment" date. All purchase, acquisition and sale prices shall exclude any fees and commissions. The receipt or grant by gift, devise, or operation of law of Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement Class Period shall not be deemed a purchase, acquisition or sale of Advisory Board common stock for the calculation of a claimant's recognized claim nor shall it be deemed an assignment of any claim relating to the purchase or acquisition of such shares unless specifically provided in the instrument of gift or assignment. The receipt of Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement class Period shall not be deemed a purchase, acquisition or sale of Advisory Board common stock during the component of advisory Board common stock during the Settlement of gift or assignment. The receipt of Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement Class Period in exchange for securities of any other corporation or entity shall not be deemed a purchase, acquisition or sale of Advisory Board common stock.

With respect to Advisory Board common stock purchased or sold through the exercise of an option, the purchase/sale of the shares is the exercise date of the option and the purchase/sale price of the share is the exercise price of the option. Any recognized claim arising from the purchase of Advisory Board common stock acquired during the Settlement Class Period through the exercise of an option on Advisory Board common stock shall be computed as provided for other purchases of Advisory Board common stock in the Plan of Allocation.

Distributions will be made to Authorized Claimants after all claims have been processed, after the Court has finally approved the Settlement, and after any appeals are resolved. If there is any balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund after at least six (6) months from the initial date of distribution of the Net Settlement Fund (whether by reason of tax refunds, uncashed checks, or otherwise), the Claims Administrator shall, if feasible, reallocate such balance among Authorized Claimants in an equitable and economic fashion. These redistributions shall be repeated until the balance remaining in the Net Settlement Fund is no longer economically feasible to distribute to Class Members. Thereafter, any balance that still remains in the Net Settlement Fund shall be donated to any appropriate non-sectarian, non-profit charitable organization(s) serving the public interest.

Please contact the Claims Administrator or Lead Counsel if you disagree with any determinations made by the Claims Administrator regarding your Proof of Claim. If you are dissatisfied with the determinations, you may ask the Court, which retains jurisdiction over all Class Members and the claims administration process, to decide the issue by submitting a written request.

The Court has reserved jurisdiction to allow, disallow, or adjust the claim of any Class Member on equitable grounds.

Payment pursuant to the Plan of Allocation set forth above shall be conclusive against all Authorized Claimants. Defendants, their respective counsel, and all other Released Persons will have no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the investment of the Settlement Fund, the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, the Plan of Allocation, or the payment of any claim. No Person shall have any claim against Lead Plaintiffs, Lead Counsel, the Claims Administrator, or other Person designated by Lead Counsel, Defendants, or Defendants' Counsel based on distributions made substantially in accordance with the Stipulation and the Settlement contained therein, the Plan of Allocation, or further orders of the Court. All Class Members who fail to complete and submit a valid and timely Proof of Claim shall be barred from participating in distributions from the Net Settlement Fund (unless otherwise ordered by the Court), but otherwise shall be bound by all of the terms of the Stipulation, including the terms of any judgment entered and the releases given.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SECURITIES BROKERS AND OTHER NOMINEES

If you purchased or acquired Advisory Board common stock during the Settlement Class Period for the beneficial interest of an individual or organization other than yourself, the Court has directed that, WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE, you either (a) provide to the Claims Administrator the name and last known address of each person or organization for whom or which you purchased or acquired such securities during such time period, or (b) request additional copies of this Notice and the Proof of Claim form, which will be provided to you free of charge, and within ten (10) days mail the Notice and Proof of Claim form directly to the beneficial owners of the securities referred to herein. If you choose to follow alternative procedure (b), upon such mailing, you must send a statement to the Claims Administrator confirming that the mailing was made as directed and retain the names and addresses for any future mailings to Class Members. You are entitled to reimbursement from the Settlement Fund of your reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with the foregoing, including reimbursement of postage expense and the cost of ascertaining the names and addresses of beneficial owners. Your reasonable expenses will be paid upon request and submission of appropriate supporting documentation. All communications concerning the foregoing should be addressed to the Claims Administrator:

Advisory Board Securities Settlement Claims Administrator c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC P.O. Box 43326 Providence, RI 02940-3326 www.AdvisoryBoardSecuritiesSettlement.com

DATED: January 6, 2020

BY ORDER OF THE COURT UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA