UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

)
JEFFREY LEONARD, IN HIS CAPACITY AS)
TRUSTEE OF THE POPLAWSKI 2008) Civil Action No. 18-cv-04994-AKH
INSURANCE TRUST; PHYLLIS POPLAWSKI;)
PBR PARTNERS, BRIGHTON TRUSTEES,	
LLC, on behalf of and as trustee for COOK	
STREET MASTER TRUST III; BANK OF)
UTAH, solely as security intermediary for COOK)
STREET MASTER TRUST III; PEAK TRUST)
COMPANY, AK, on behalf of and as trustee for)
SUSAN L. CICIORA TRUST and STEWART)
WEST INDIES TRUST; and ADVANCE TRUST)
& LIFE ESCROW SERVICES, LTA, as	
securities intermediary for LIFE PARTNERS)
POSITION HOLDER TRUST, on behalf of)
themselves and all others similarly situated,)
•)
Plaintiffs,	
VS.	
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE	
COMPANY OF NEW YORK and JOHN)
HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	
(U.S.A.),)
Defendants.)
Detellualits.)
)
)

DECLARATION OF SETH ARD IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASS

I, Seth Ard, declare as follows:

- 1. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Certification of the Settlement Class, in connection with the proposed class action settlement between Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the proposed class, and Defendants John Hancock Life Insurance Company of New York and John Hancock Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.) (together, "Hancock" or "Defendants").
- 2. I am a partner in the law firm of Susman Godfrey L.L.P., which is counsel for Plaintiffs and court-appointed Class Counsel (*see* Dkt. 52). I am a member in good standing of the bar of this Court. I have personal, first-hand knowledge of the matters set forth herein and, if called to testify as a witness, could and would testify competently thereto.
- 3. I previously submitted a declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement (Dkt. 201-2) and a declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Incentive Awards (Dkt. 208). I submit this additional declaration to update the Court on developments following the close of the class opt out period on March 28, 2022.
- 4. The Settlement Administrator received 10 timely requests for exclusion from the Class, some of which were submitted by a law firm already litigating one of the Related Actions. Of these timely requests, 155 policy numbers were included on the Class Policy List, which represents 12.3% of the total Class of policies in the Settlement.
 - 5. No Class Members have objected to the Settlement.
- 6. On March 28, 2022, Class Counsel received a letter from Gary M. BrayBoy dated March 8, 2022, which was addressed to the Court and requested exclusion from the Class. The letter was sent from the Lakeland Correctional Facility at 141 First Street, Coldwater, Michigan

49036. Class Counsel was unable to locate the policy number referenced in the letter, the name of the insured, and the mailing address in the class records. The Settlement Administrator confirmed that the policy referenced in the letter is not in the class. A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit A to my declaration.

- 7. On April 7, 2022, the Court filed on the public docket a letter from a Class Member, Elizabeth A. Fulk, dated March 28, 2022. *See* Dkt. 214. The letter did not criticize nor object to the Settlement. A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit B to my declaration.
- 8. Now that the opt out period has closed and certain policies have been excluded from the Class, John Hancock will create a non-reversionary cash settlement fund of \$93,097,406.44 which amounts to 91.25% of the Class overcharge damages through August 31, 2021. We have met and conferred with John Hancock with regards to this calculation, and John Hancock agrees that that is the post-option final settlement fund amount.
- 9. Pursuant to the Settlement, John Hancock also agreed (i) not to impose a new COI rate schedule for 5 years following final approval of the settlement, plus a provision that if any other opt-out plaintiff negotiates a longer deal than 5 years, John Hancock will match that duration for the Class Policies (the "COI Rate Freeze"); and (ii) not to challenge or rescind any policies on lack of insurable interest or fraud grounds or based on misrepresentations in the policy application (the "Validity Confirmation"). An eminently qualified expert with extensive experience in the life insurance industry and with longevity-based products opined that the non-monetary forms of relief were highly valuable to the class. *See* March 11, 2022 Declaration of Keith McNally (Dkt. 209) ¶ 11; Exhibit A to McNally Decl. (Dkt. 209-1). Now that the opt out period has closed and certain policies have been excluded from the Class, applying the same methodology and models as was

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used previously on preliminary approval, that expert has concluded the value of the COI Rate

Freeze and Validity Confirmation is \$50.48 million.

10. The overall value of the monetary and non-monetary benefits of the Settlement on

final approval exceeds \$143 million.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: April 11, 2022 /s/ Seth Ard

Seth Arc

EXHIBIT A

GARYM. BRAYBY 183258

AKELAND CORRECTIONAL TACKTY

LILLIAM TEL, MICHIGAN 19836

HONCORABLE: ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN

ONITED STATES PISTANCH COURT

SOUTHER, DISTANCT OF NEW YORK

1.5. CONSTHOUSE: 500 TEARL STATET

NEW YORK, M. Y. 18007 - 1312.

BESTED MRS. EUNICE H. BRAY BOY DEMASED, DOB 07/18/1933. BENEFICIARY GARY M. BRAYBOY, SONDOB 12/11/1967. CD-BUNGER ST SOME HANCOCK LIFE INCORPANCE O. POLICY. (USA) BOSTON, MA, WWW. HALCOCK. COM

Subject: SETTREY LEONANDE AL V. Sohn Hancock Life incarance Co OT NEW YORK, ET AL. CASE NO.1:18-CV-4994-AKH.

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Filed 04/11/22 Page 3 of 4 Case 1:18-cv Document 217-1 -04994-AKH NICE A. 18-01-494 LONDINGE MOSURACIOE RATES 1x1CACASING SALL SERVE Lite INSCHANCE MSCHNICE

PLEASE LET ME KKOW. SETERE THE NEXT COURT HEARING ON MAY 17 JUL22 AT 2:30 PM. J VERITICATION

The ABOVE IS FRUE, AND CORRECT TO The DEST OF MY INTORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND DELIET.

Inte: MARCH 7, Soll.

TARY M. BRAY BOY 185258 AKELAND GARECTIONAL TAC.

3.

EXHIBIT B

Elizabeth A. Fulk, policy owner 2580 South 750 West Russiaville IN 46979 765-883-5602

March 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern.

Hear file on Elf 4-5-22 Ak Hollon

This letter is a communication for the Fairness Hearing. Mrs. Fulk is 92 years of age and unable to travel and therefore unable to appear at the hearing. Over the past few years, she has been extremely upset about the increased amount she has had to pay to keep this policy Inforce. She put her life savings into this policy and now she is to the point of running out of money. With that said, she has endured serious health problems that in no doubt are related to the worry and stress of this policy. In February she hospitalized for several days due to internal bleeding from a bleeding ulcer.

At the age of 79, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Fulk applied for & purchased John Hancock Performance Universal Life Insurance Policy, 94 165 354 November 1, 2008. She was required to take a physical. The Initial Policy Premium Payment of \$200,000.00 was paid and the policy has a Level Death Benefit of \$866,368.00 with an annual premium of \$40,000.

The said policy has a guaranteed annual rate, of at least 3% plus a Persistency Bonus that should have been applied at the beginning of policy year 11 since the policy was Inforce and Unborrowed. We are still not sure if she received this bonus and guaranteed annual rate?

Enclosed is a spreadsheet showing the annual cost of insurance, payments, and additional fees. How can the Cost of Insurance increase \$34,852.27 in one year, and when she turned 90? Are the actuary tables designed to exploit the elderly because John Hancock doesn't want to pay the death benefit? Isn't this illegal? Up to this point, the increases have been between \$3000 and \$5600/annually which is above the normal, 12% is the high side of normal. Then there is an added premium charge. To date, Mrs. Fulk has paid \$\$786,162.16 out of pocket for insurance (last payment Feb 22, 2022), \$52,546.87 has come off the top for premium charges, in addition to Cost of Insurance, Administrative Charges, and Contract Charges.

These costs and additional fees far exceed any reasonable increases a policy holder should incur when owning a life insurance policy; therefore, it makes one question the honesty of John Hancock Insurance Company and their willingness to take advantage of people.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele A. Hunt

Michele A. Hunt, daughter 2554 South 750 West

Wiener asterne

Russiaville, IN 46979

765-883-7237

I, Elizabeth A. Fulk consent to this letter being mailed to the Office of the Clerk in New York, NY. and the above information to be true and accurate.

Elizabeth A. Fulk

March 28, 2022

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Policy: 94 165 354 December 3, 1929

Year	Age Dec 3	Age Dec 3 Cost of Insurance	Payments	Default Chg	Premium Charge	Contract Charge
Nov 1 2008 to Oct 31, 2009	79	\$21,852.13	\$200,000.00		\$16,000.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2009 to Oct 31, 2010	80	\$26,259.10	\$40,000.00		\$3,200.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2010 to Oct 31, 2011	81	\$31,455.99	\$40,000.00		\$3,200.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2011 to Oct 31, 2012	82	\$34,591.10	\$19,061.91		\$1,524.95	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2012 to Oct 31, 2013	83	\$37,661.83	\$40,000.00		\$3,200.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2013 to Oct 31, 2014	84	\$39,775.07	\$40,000.00		\$3,200.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2014 to Oct 31, 2015	85	\$43,304.17	\$40,000.00		\$3,200.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2015 to Oct 31, 2016	98	\$46,890.48	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2016 to Oct 31, 2017	87	\$52,242.14	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2017 to Oct 31, 2018	88	\$57,890.62	\$40,000.00		\$3,200.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2018 to Oct 31, 2019	88	\$92,742.89	\$117,774.00		\$9,421.92	\$0.00
Nov 1 2019 to Oct 31 2020	06	\$95,750.55	\$80,000.00		\$6,400.00	\$0.00
Nov 1 2020 to Oct 31 2021	91	\$90,337.21	\$80,000.00	\$9,386.90	\$6,400.00	\$5,729.52
Nov 1 2021 to Oct 31 2022	92		\$20,925.58			
Nov 1 2022 to Oct 31 2023	93					
E			÷	00 700 0#	€ 10 \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	
TOTALS		\$670,753.28	\$/5/,/61.49	%9,386.9U	\$58,946.87	\$65,024.72
Policy Date: November 1, 2008						

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inistrative Chg	P.	Payment Date(s)		STATEMENT	STATEMENT Ins Incr from Prev Yr	% Cost Incr
\$300.00	10/27/2008			2009		
\$120.00	12/15/2009			2010	\$4,406.97	
\$120.00	12/14/2010	12/14/2010 07/18/2011		2011	\$5,196.89	0
\$120.00	01/20/2012			2012	\$3,135.11	
\$120.00	03/18/2013			2013	\$3,070.73	3
\$120.00	02/21/2014			2014	\$2,113.24	+
\$120.00	04/12/2015			2015	\$3,529.10	0
\$120.00				2016	\$3,586.31	
				2017	\$5,351.66	10
\$120.00	04/25/2018			2018	\$5,648.48	8
\$120.00		02/22/2019 05/20/2019	10/21/2019	2019	\$34,852.27	7
\$120.00	04/07/2020	04/07/2020 07/27/2020		2020	\$3,007.66	,
\$120.00	11/02/2020	11/02/2020 07/20/2021		2021	\$3,973.56	.0
	11/30/2021	11/30/2021 Sending Paymit	+	2022		
\$1,620.00						
\$1,020.00						