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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Case No.

DANNY SABANA, individually and  
as a representative of a Putative Class  
of Participants and Beneficiaries, on  
behalf of all similarly situated  
participants and beneficiaries on behalf  
of the CORELOGIC, INC. 401(K)  
SAVINGS PLAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

CORELOGIC, INC., THE  
RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE  
OF CORELOGIC, INC. 401(K)  
SAVINGS PLAN, and DOES 1  
through 10,

Defendants.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

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1 Plaintiff Danny Sabana (“Plaintiff”), individually and as a representative of  
2 participants and beneficiaries of the CORELOGIC, INC. 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN,  
3 (the “Plan”), brings this action under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act  
4 of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1001 *et seq.*, on behalf of the Plan  
5 and seeking Plan-wide relief pursuant to ERISA §§ 502(a)(2),(3), 409(a), 1109,  
6 and/or as otherwise authorized by law, against current Plan sponsor, CoreLogic,  
7 Inc. (“CoreLogic”), The Retirement Plan Committee of CoreLogic, Inc. 401(k)  
8 Savings Plan, and John Does 1-10 (collectively the “Defendants”), for breaching  
9 their fiduciary duties in the management, operation and administration of the Plan.

### 10 **INTRODUCTION**

11 1. This action is brought by current and former employees / participants /  
12 beneficiaries of Defendants’ Plan to recover losses due to mismanagement of the  
13 401k retirement plan and certain selected funds. The 401k plan has become the  
14 dominant source of retirement savings for most Americans. Unlike defined-benefit  
15 pensions, which provide set payouts for life, 401(k) accounts rise and fall with  
16 financial markets, and therefore, the proliferation of 401(k) plans has exposed  
17 workers to big drops in the stock market and high fees from Wall Street money  
18 managers. This action is filed to recover funds owed back to the plan on behalf of  
19 employees / participants / beneficiaries. These retirement funds are significant to the  
20 welfare of the class.

21 2. Federal law affords employers the privilege of enticing and retaining  
22 employees by setting up retirement and defined contribution plans pursuant to 26  
23 U.S.C. § 401 (“401(k) plans). These plans provide employees investment options  
24 with tax benefits that inure to the benefits of the employees and, necessarily, to the  
25 employers by increasing the “net” compensation their employees receive via tax  
26 deferment. To enjoy this benefit, employers must follow the rules and standards  
27 proscribed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. §  
28 1001, *et seq.* (“ERISA”).

1           3.     The Defendants chose to accept the benefits of federal and state tax  
2     deferrals for their employees via a 401(k) plan, and the owners and executives of  
3     Defendant organizations have benefitted financially for years from the same tax  
4     benefits. However, Defendants have not followed ERISA's standard of care. This  
5     lawsuit is filed after careful consultation with experts and review of publicly  
6     available documents to return benefits taken from Plan participants by Defendants.

7           4.     The Plan at issue is a defined contribution retirement plan or a 401(k)  
8     plan, established pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1002(2)(A) and § 1002(34) of ERISA, that  
9     enables eligible participants to make tax-deferred contributions from their salaries to  
10    the Plan. As of December 31, 2021, the Plan had 7,161 participants or beneficiaries  
11    and \$741,898,999 in assets.

12          5.     ERISA imposes strict fiduciary duties of prudence and loyalty on  
13    covered retirement plan fiduciaries. An ERISA fiduciary must discharge his  
14    responsibility "with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence" that a prudent person  
15    "acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters" would use. 29 U.S.C. §  
16    1104(a)(1). A plan fiduciary must act "solely in the interest of [plan] participants  
17    and beneficiaries." *Id.* A fiduciary's duties include "defraying reasonable expenses  
18    of administering the plan," 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(A)(ii), and a continuing duty to  
19    monitor investments and remove imprudent ones. *Tibble v. Edison Int'l*, 135 S. Ct.  
20    1823, 1829 (2015).

21          6.     Specifically, Defendants breached their fiduciary duties of prudence and  
22    loyalty to the Plan by:

- 23          a. Overpaying for Covered Service Providers by paying variable direct and  
24             indirect compensation fees through revenue sharing arrangements with the  
25             funds offered as investment options under the Plan, which were in excess of  
26             reasonable fees and not tethered to the services provided;
- 26          b. Offering and maintaining funds with higher-cost share classes when  
27             identical lower cost class shares were available and could have been offered  
28             to participants resulting in participants/beneficiaries paying unnecessary

costs for services that provided no value to them and resulted in a reduction of compounded return gains;

- c. Retaining and offering poorly performing funds within the Plan which failed to meet or exceed industry standard benchmarks including Morningstar category indices and best fit indices as determined by Morningstar when better performing and lower fee funds were available.
- d. Depriving participants of compounded returns through the excessive costs and investment in expensive underperforming funds; and
- e. Failing to maintain and restore trust assets.

7. Plaintiffs were injured during the Relevant Time Period by the Defendants' flawed processes in breach of their fiduciary duties. As a result of Defendant's actions, participants invested in subpar investment vehicles and paid additional unnecessary operating expenses and fees with no value to the participants and resulting in a loss of compounded returns.

8. Plaintiffs, individually and as representatives of a putative class consisting of the Plan's participants and beneficiaries, brings this action on behalf of the Plan under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1132(a)(2) and (3) to enforce Defendants' liability under 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a), to make good to the Plan all losses resulting from their breaches of fiduciary duties, and to restore to the Plan any lost profits. In addition, Plaintiffs seek to reform the Plan to comply with ERISA and to prevent further breaches of fiduciary duties and grant other equitable and remedial relief as the Court may deem appropriate.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. Plaintiffs brings this action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a), which provides that participants or beneficiaries in an employee retirement plan may pursue a civil action on behalf of the plan to remedy breaches of fiduciary duty and other violations of ERISA for monetary and appropriate equitable relief.

10. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, because it is a civil action arising under the laws of the

1 United States, and the Court has exclusive jurisdiction under ERISA § 502(e)(1), 29  
2 U.S.C. §1132(e)(1).

3 11. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they  
4 transact business in this District, reside in this District, and/or have significant  
5 contacts with this District, Plaintiff Sabana was employed in this District, and  
6 because ERISA provides for nationwide service of process.

7 12. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to ERISA § 502(e)(2), 29  
8 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2), because the Plan is administered in this District, many  
9 violations of ERISA took place in this District, and Defendants conduct business in  
10 this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims  
11 asserted herein occurred within this District.

## 12 **THE PARTIES**

### 13 ***Plaintiffs***

14 13. Plaintiff Danny Sabana resides in Elk Grove, CA and was an  
15 employee of CoreLogic in Irvine, CA. Sabana is a current participant in the Plan  
16 within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7) during the Relevant Time Period and  
17 upon information and belief invested in some or all of the funds which are at issue in  
18 this action. As a direct and proximate result of breaches of fiduciary duties described  
19 herein, the Plan, the Participants, and members of the putative class suffered  
20 substantial losses and legal damages in the form of higher fees and lower returns on  
21 their investments than they would have otherwise experienced due to investment in  
22 the Plan and Plan wide-misconduct. Sabana was damaged by the Defendants'  
23 breaches of their fiduciary duties which impacted the Plan as a whole and damaged  
24 all Plan participants.

25 14. Plaintiff Sabana has standing under 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2) to bring this  
26 action on behalf of the Plan because Defendants' reckless and insouciant actions  
27 caused actual harm to an ERISA plan in which the Plaintiff participates. Plaintiff  
28 suffered an injury in fact by, *inter alia*, being forced to pay excessive fees to Fund

1 service providers, investing in higher cost mutual fund shares when lower cost shares  
2 of the same fund were available to the Plan, and being offered funds which failed to  
3 perform at or above their benchmarks. Defendants are liable to the Plan for the  
4 Plan's losses under 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a).

5 ***Defendants***

6 15. Defendant CoreLogic, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation and the current  
7 sponsor of the Plan. It maintains its principal place of business at 40 Pacifica  
8 Avenue, Suite 900, Irvine, CA 92618. CoreLogic is registered to do business in the  
9 State of California, and upon information and belief, operates as a sponsor and  
10 administrator and/or fiduciary of the Plan.

11 16. Defendant The Retirement Plan Committee of CoreLogic, Inc. 401(k)  
12 Savings Plan (the "Plan Investment Committee" or "Committee") is composed of a  
13 group of fiduciaries of the plan tasked with administering and overseeing the Plan  
14 including selecting, monitoring and maintaining the best interests of the plan  
15 participants and beneficiaries.

16 17. Defendant "Does" or the names of the individuals on the Board of  
17 Directors and related Committee(s), as well as the Plan's manager, an CoreLogic's  
18 officers during the Relevant Time Period are unknown at this time and are named as  
19 "John Does" until the "Does" are known and can be named through amendment to  
20 this Complaint.

21 18. CoreLogic, the Board of Directors, the Plan Investment Committee, the  
22 Plan's manager, and the Directors and Officers are fiduciaries to the Plan under 29  
23 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A)(i) and (iii) because they have sole authority to amend or  
24 terminate, in whole or part, the Plan or the trust, and have discretionary authority to  
25 control the operation, management and administration of the Plan, including the  
26 selection and compensation of the providers of administrative services to the Plan  
27 and the selection, monitoring, and removal of the investment options made available  
28



1 to participants for the investment of their contributions and provision of their  
2 retirement income.

3 19. Finally, although not named as a Defendants at this time, certain service  
4 providers are relevant non-parties to this Litigation.

5 20. CoreLogic contracted with NFP Retirement, Inc. (“NFP”), to serve as  
6 the Plan’s Investment Advisor.

7 21. CoreLogic contracted with Fidelity Investments Institutional Operations  
8 Company (“Fidelity”), to serve as the Plan’s recordkeeper. Fidelity served as the  
9 Plan’s recordkeeper during the relevant time period based on Schedules C certified  
10 returns filed by CoreLogic.

11 22. CoreLogic contracted with Fidelity Management Trust Company to  
12 serve as Trustee. In this capacity, Fidelity Management Trust Company received and  
13 held the assets of the Fund on behalf of the Participants and Beneficiaries.

14 23. CoreLogic had a concomitant fiduciary duty to monitor and supervise  
15 those appointees and contracted parties.

16 **DEFENDANTS’ FIDUCIARY OBLIGATIONS**

17 24. ERISA and common law trusts imposes strict fiduciary duties of loyalty  
18 and prudence upon Defendants as Plan fiduciaries. 29 U.S.C. §1104(a)(1)(A)  
19 requires a plan fiduciary to “discharge his duties with respect to a plan solely in the  
20 interest of the participants and beneficiaries” for the “exclusive purpose of (i)  
21 providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries; and (ii) defraying  
22 reasonable expenses of administering the plan.”

23 25. 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B) and common law require a plan fiduciary to  
24 discharge his obligations “with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the  
25 circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and  
26 familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character  
27 and with like aims.”  
28

1           26. A fiduciary's duties include a continuing duty to monitor investments  
2 and remove imprudent ones. *Tibble v. Edison Int'l*, 135 S. Ct. at 1829.

3           27. 29 U.S.C. § 1106(a)(1)(C) and § 1108(b)(2) and the common law allow  
4 a fiduciary of an employee benefit plan to enter into an agreement with a party in  
5 interest for the provision of administrative services such as recordkeeping to the Plan  
6 "if no more than reasonable compensation is paid therefor." NFP and Fidelity are  
7 "parties in interest" under 29 U.S.C. § 1106(a)(1)(C).

8           28. 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2) and common law authorizes a plan participant to  
9 bring a civil action to enforce a breaching fiduciary's liability to the plan under 29  
10 U.S.C. § 1109.

11           29. Section 1109(a) and common law provide "[a]ny person who is a  
12 fiduciary with respect to a plan who breaches any of the responsibilities, obligations,  
13 or duties imposed upon fiduciaries by this subchapter shall be personally liable to  
14 make good to such plan any losses to the plan resulting from each such breach."  
15 "One appropriate remedy in cases of breach of fiduciary duty is the restoration of the  
16 trust beneficiaries to the position they would have occupied but for the breach of  
17 trust." Restatement (Second) of Trusts § 205(c) (1959).

18                           **DEFINED CONTRIBUTION 401(K) PLANS**  
19                           **AND THE IMPACT OF EXCESSIVE FEES**

20           30. In a defined contribution plan, participants (and sometimes their  
21 employer) make contributions to plan participant's individual accounts. Participants'  
22 retirement benefits are limited to the value of their own individual accounts, which is  
23 determined solely by employee and employer contributions plus any investment  
24 gains less plan and investment expenses. *See* 29 U.S.C. § 1002(34). Plan  
25 Participants' investments are held in trust. Typically, plan participants direct the  
26 investment of their accounts, choosing from the lineup of plan investment options  
27 chosen by the plan sponsor.

1           31. Because retirement savings in defined contribution plans are intended to  
2 grow and compound over the course of the employee participants' careers, poor  
3 investment performance and excessive fees can dramatically reduce the amount of  
4 benefits available when the participant is ready to retire. Over time, even small  
5 differences in fees and performance compound which can result in vast differences  
6 in the amount of savings available at retirement. As the Supreme Court explained,  
7 "[e]xpenses, such as management or administrative fees, can sometimes significantly  
8 reduce the value of an account in a defined-contribution plan." *Tibble v. Edison Int'l*,  
9 135 S. Ct. at 1825. In short, the damages caused by breaches of fiduciary duties to  
10 the Plan cause damages that continue to accrue and compound over time.

11           32. In fact, the impact of excessive fees on employees' and retirees'  
12 retirement assets is dramatic. The U.S. Department of Labor has noted that a 1%  
13 higher level of fees over a 35-year period makes a 28% difference in retirement  
14 assets at the end of a participant's career. U.S. Dep't of Labor, A Look at 401(k)  
15 Plan Fees, at 1–2 (Aug. 2013).<sup>1</sup>

16           33. As a simple example, if a beneficiary invested \$10,000, the investment  
17 grew at a rate of 7% a year for 40 years, and the fund charged 1% in fees each year,  
18 at the end of the 40-year period the beneficiary's investment would be worth  
19 \$100,175. If the fees were raised to 1.18%, or 1.4%, the value of the investment at  
20 the end of the 40-year period would decrease to \$93,142 and \$85,198, respectively.  
21 Beneficiaries subject to higher fees for materially identical funds lose not only the  
22 money spent on higher fees, but also "lost investment opportunity"; that is, the  
23 money that the portion of their investment spent on unnecessary fees would have  
24 earned over time.

25  
26  
27 <sup>1</sup> [https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-](https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-activities/resourcecenter/publications/401kFeesEmployee.pdf)  
28 [activities/resourcecenter/publications/401kFeesEmployee.pdf](https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-activities/resourcecenter/publications/401kFeesEmployee.pdf)

34. Accordingly, courts have recognized that plan fiduciaries “cannot ignore the power the trust wields to obtain favorable investment products, particularly when those products are substantially identical—other than their lower cost—to products the trustee has already selected.” *Tibble v. Edison International*, 843 F.3d 1187, 1198 (9th Cir. 2016).

35. The marketplace for retirement plan services is established and competitive. Because of the Plan’s large size and substantial assets, it has tremendous bargaining power to demand low-cost administrative and investment management services and well-performing, low-cost investment funds.

### **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUST AND THE DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON FOR THE COMPLAINT’S ALLEGATIONS**

36. Defendants’ Annual Returns/Reports of Employee Benefit Plan to the U.S. Departments of Treasury and Labor (“Forms 5500” which are “Open to Public Inspection” and available for download from [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov) for forms filed in 2010 and onward).

37. Plaintiff also requested Defendants Plan governing documents and this Complaint is based in part on the limited documents provided by Defendants.

38. The underlying allegations in this Complaint are based on Plaintiff’s documents as well as the Defendants’ past Forms 5500 filed with U.S. Departments of Treasury and Labor found at [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov), and mutual fund prospectuses found at <https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar>.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **A. Defendants Paid Fidelity Unreasonable Fees, Failed to Monitor Fidelity, and make Requests for Proposals from Other Recordkeepers**

39. Defendants have a duty to prudently select covered service providers (“CSPs”). Courts that have considered the issue have made it clear that “the failure to exercise due care in selecting . . . a fund’s service providers constitutes a breach of a trustee’s fiduciary duty.” 28 U.S.C. § 1108(b)(2) states that services must be

1 necessary for the plan's operation. Department of Labor guidance has also  
2 emphasized the importance of prudently selecting service providers.<sup>2</sup> The DOL has  
3 observed that, when selecting a service provider, "the responsible plan fiduciary  
4 must engage in an objective process." *Id.* Such a process must be "designed to elicit  
5 information necessary to assess . . . the reasonableness of the fees charged in light of  
6 the services provided." *Id.*

7 40. Recordkeeping is a necessary service for every defined contribution  
8 plan. Recordkeeping services for a qualified retirement plan, like the Plan, are  
9 essentially fixed and largely automated – a computer-based bookkeeping system.

10 41. The costs for recordkeeping and administrative services are driven  
11 purely by the number of inputs and the number of transactions and therefore depend  
12 on the number of participants, not the amount of assets in the participant's account.

13 42. The greatest cost incurred in incorporating a new retirement plan into a  
14 recordkeeper's system is upfront setup costs. After the Plan account is set up,  
15 individual accounts are opened by entering the participant's name, age, SSN, date of  
16 hire and marital status. The system also records the amount a participant wishes to  
17 contribute each pay period through automated payroll deductions. Participants can  
18 go on-line and change their contribution rate at any time.

19 43. Because the cost of recordkeeping services depends on the number of  
20 participants, not on the amount of assets in the participant's account, the cost of  
21 providing recordkeeping services to a participant with a \$100,000 account balance is  
22 the same for a participant with \$1,000 in her retirement account.

23 44. Recordkeepers for defined contribution plans are generally compensated  
24 in two ways: First, through direct payments from the plan (participants) or employer;  
25 and second, through indirect payments via a practice known as revenue sharing.

26 45. In a revenue sharing arrangement, a mutual fund or other investment  
27 vehicle directs a portion of the expense ratio—the asset-based fees it charges to  
28

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<sup>2</sup> DOL Info. Letter to Theodore Konshak (Dec. 1, 1997).

1 investors—to the 401(k) plan’s recordkeeper putatively for providing marketing,  
2 recordkeeping and administrative services for the mutual fund. These fees include  
3 Rule 12b-1 fees, which are paid by the Funds to the recordkeeper as compensation  
4 for its services and expenses in connection with the sale and distribution of Fund  
5 shares; shareholder service fees; and sub-transfer agency fees. The payments are **not**  
6 tied to actual expenses incurred by the recordkeeper for services rendered.

7 46. Because revenue sharing arrangements pay recordkeepers asset-based  
8 fees, prudent fiduciaries monitor the total amount of revenue sharing a recordkeeper  
9 receives to ensure that the recordkeeper is not receiving unreasonable compensation.  
10 A prudent fiduciary ensures that the recordkeeper rebates to the plan all revenue  
11 sharing payments that exceed a reasonable per participant recordkeeping fee that can  
12 be obtained from the recordkeeping market through competitive bids. Defendants did  
13 not do that here.

14 47. The revenue sharing fees were not printed on participants’ statements  
15 making it difficult for participants to evaluate whether they were paying excessive  
16 fees for recordkeeping services.

17 48. Because revenue sharing payments are asset-based, they bear no relation  
18 to the actual cost to provide services or the number of plan participants and can result  
19 in the payment of unreasonable recordkeeping fees. To put it another way,  
20 recordkeepers (or any other CSP) receiving unchecked revenue sharing  
21 compensation accrue significant ongoing pay increases simply as a result of  
22 participants putting money aside biweekly for retirement. Additional funds come  
23 from interest, dividends and capital gains.

24 49. Based on the number of Plan participants and the assets in the Plan, a  
25 reasonable recordkeeping fee for the Plan is approximately \$40 per participant (15th  
26 Annual NEPC 2020 Defined Contribution Plan & Fee Survey:  
27 [https://f.hubspotusercontent00.net/hubfs/2529352/2020%20DC%20Plan%20and%20](https://f.hubspotusercontent00.net/hubfs/2529352/2020%20DC%20Plan%20and%20Fee%20Survey/2020%20NEPC%20DC%20Plan%20Progress%20Report.pdf)  
28 [Fee%20Survey/2020%20NEPC%20DC%20Plan%20Progress%20Report.pdf](https://f.hubspotusercontent00.net/hubfs/2529352/2020%20DC%20Plan%20Progress%20Report.pdf).

1           50. Plaintiffs have calculated the Plan's recordkeeping fees based on the  
2 direct and indirect compensation levels shown on the Plan's Form 5500s filed with  
3 the Department of Labor covering the relevant time period. Starting in 2018, the  
4 Form 5500 Schedule C lists a negative amount for direct compensation dollars to  
5 Fidelity. Plaintiffs subtracted that amount from the indirect compensation amounts  
6 paid to Fidelity (as calculated from the Form 5500 Schedule C) to obtain the  
7 recordkeeping fees paid to Fidelity.

8           51. Based on these calculations, the Plan paid Fidelity excessive and  
9 variable recordkeeping fees that were not tethered to the services provided.

10          52. For example, in 2021, the Plan paid Fidelity approximately \$516,000  
11 even though Fidelity had provided the same services for approximately \$314,000 the  
12 year before.

13          53. Similarly, in 2017, the Plan paid Fidelity approximately \$618,000 in  
14 recordkeeping fees for these same services.

15          54. These variations in recordkeeping fees cannot be explained by the  
16 services provided – which did not materially change.

17          55. Nor can these variations be explained by changes in participants as the  
18 number of Plan participants shrank slightly over time.

19          56. Rather, as demonstrated in the charts and tables below, per participant  
20 recordkeeping fees swung wildly based largely on Plan Assets and only once fell  
21 under the \$40 per person that represents a reasonable fee for recordkeeping services.

22          57. Given that Fidelity was able to provide services for \$37.32 in 2017, it  
23 should have been able to do so for other years.

24 //

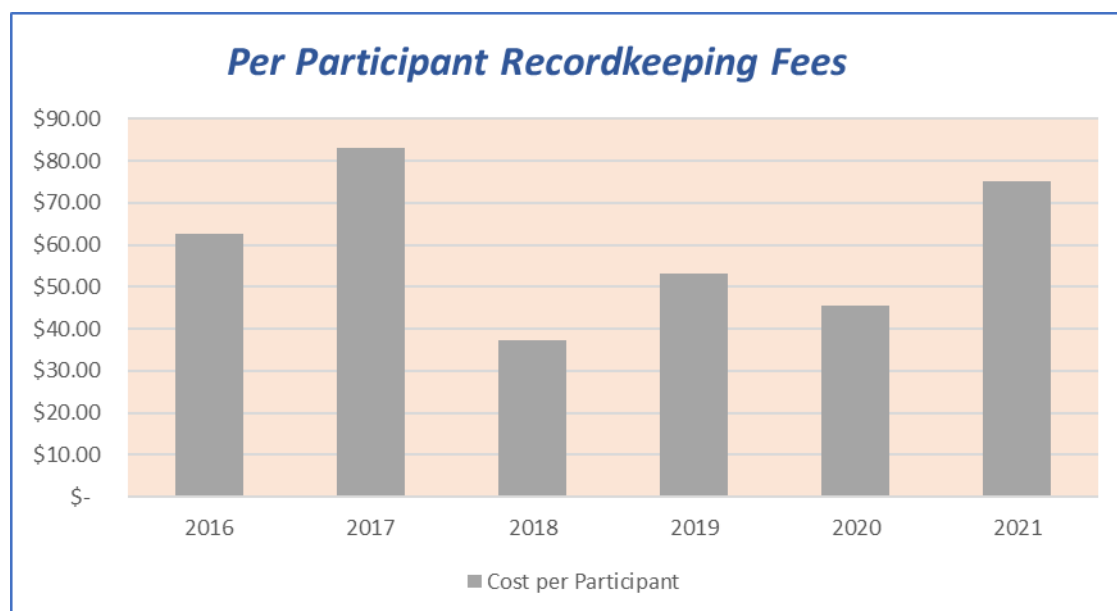
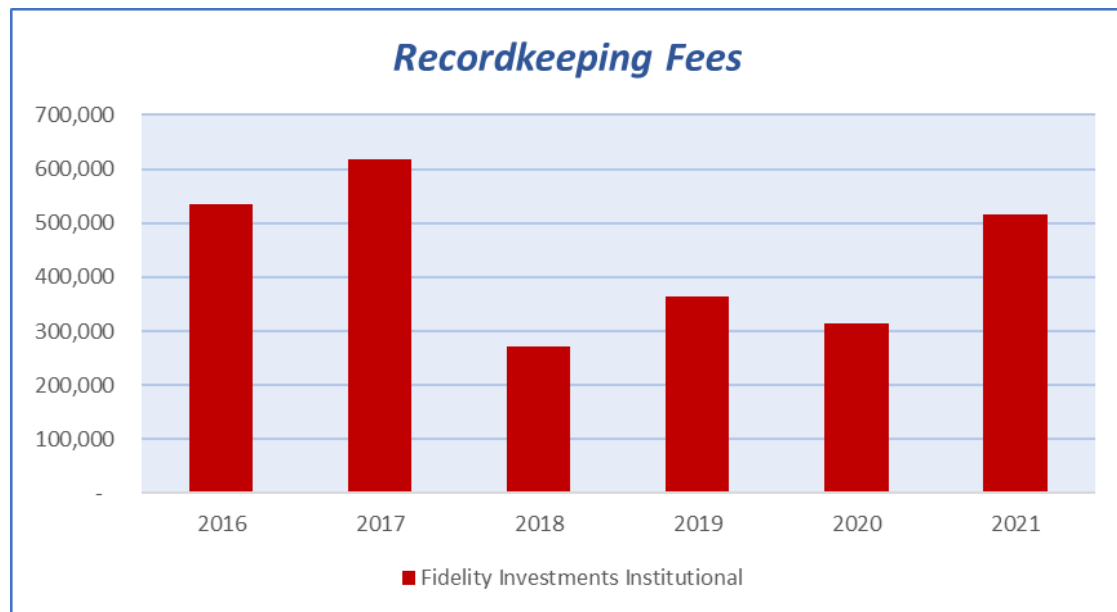
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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Plan Assets</i>	\$472,447,658	\$541,091,371	\$505,040,261	\$588,021,502	\$681,999,604	\$741,898,999
<i>% change</i>		15%	-7%	16%	16%	9%
<i>Number of Employees</i>	8,526	7,457	7,265	6,839	6,879	6,878
<i>% change</i>		-13%	-3%	-6%	1%	0%
<i>Fees Paid to Fidelity</i>	\$534,525	\$618,600	\$271,129	\$362,937	\$313,989	\$516,596
<i>Cost per Participant</i>	\$62.69	\$82.96	\$37.32	\$53.07	\$45.64	\$75.11
<i>% change</i>		32%	-48%	44%	-9%	56%





1           58. There are numerous recordkeepers in the marketplace who are capable  
2 of providing a high level of service to the Plan, and who will readily respond to a  
3 request for proposal. These recordkeepers vigorously compete for business by  
4 offering the best service for the best price. Upon information and belief, Defendants  
5 did not make requests for proposals from other recordkeepers during the putative  
6 class period.

7           59. The package of recordkeeping services the Plan received included  
8 standard recordkeeping services such as government reporting services, plan sponsor  
9 support services, recordkeeping services, and plan investment services and reporting.

10          60. The Plan did not receive any unique services or at a level of quality that  
11 would warrant fees far greater than the competitive fees that would be offered by  
12 other providers as the Plan was charged by Fidelity.

13          61. Plaintiffs requested but were not provided with “service provider  
14 contracts” which would allow Plaintiffs to identify the precise services provided by  
15 Fidelity.

16          62. However, recordkeeping services are largely standardized because the  
17 recordkeepers must provide these services at scale to a large number of plans and  
18 must comply with regulatory requirements. They cannot offer bespoke sets of  
19 services to each individual plan.

20          63. Indeed, like 99% of other plans, the Plan itself is a standardized  
21 prototype and not individually drafted. The Plan adopted a “volume submitter plan  
22 document” which is a “Pre-Approved Defined Contribution Plan” that bears the title  
23 “Fidelity Basic Plan Document No. 17.”

24          64. As with the Plan itself, which is in no way unique, the recordkeeping  
25 services received are not unique. The bulk of the fee paid for recordkeeping services  
26 pays for core recordkeeping services that do not vary from plan to plan.

27          65. For large plans like this Plan, recordkeeping services are offered in a  
28 bundle with standardized services including, but not limited to, recordkeeping,

1 transaction processing, participant communications, plan document services to  
2 ensure compliance with new legal and regulatory requirements, plan consulting  
3 services including regarding investment selection, accounting and audit services such  
4 as Form 5500 preparation, and compliance support and testing.

5 66. Some other services may be added on an ad-hoc basis including, loan  
6 processing, brokerage services, distribution services, and processing of qualified  
7 domestic relations orders but the addition of such services do not have a dramatic  
8 impact on the cost of recordkeeping services, if any, and would not explain the  
9 variable and excessive compensation received by Fidelity that was not tied to the  
10 specific services rendered.

11 67. The market for defined contribution recordkeeping services is highly  
12 competitive, particularly for a Plan like the CoreLogic Plan with large numbers of  
13 participants and a large amount of assets.

14 68. The unreasonable fees paid to Fidelity through revenue sharing  
15 arrangements directly resulted from the Defendants' choice of improper mutual fund  
16 share classes and failing to monitor the fees paid to Fidelity.

17 69. The mutual funds paid annual revenue sharing fees based on a  
18 percentage of the total Plan assets invested in the fund, which were ultimately paid  
19 by Plan participants who invested in those funds. The Plan participants realized  
20 lower returns on their investments because they paid higher fund operating expenses.

21 70. Fidelity's fees so far exceeded reasonable recordkeeping fees to the  
22 point that no differentiation in services could explain the level of recordkeeping fees  
23 paid by the Plan.

24 71. The clear explanation for this is that Defendants have a flawed and  
25 reckless provider selection process that is "tainted by failure of effort, competence,  
26 or loyalty." *Braden v. Wal-Mart Stores*, 588 F.3d 585, 596 (8th Cir. 2009).

27 72. As discussed below, in most years, many of the funds offered to the  
28 participants had less expensive share classes available. Defendant's use of higher

1 cost share classes to pay service provider costs is the most inequitable, inefficient  
2 and expensive method available.

3 73. Defendants clearly failed to use the Plan's bargaining power to  
4 leverage Fidelity to charge lower administrative fees for the Plan participants or by  
5 bidding the Plan out to other service providers.

6 74. Defendants further failed to take any or adequate action to monitor,  
7 evaluate or reduce their service provider fees, such as:

8 a. Choosing mutual fund share classes with lower revenue sharing for the  
9 Plan;

10 b. monitoring costs including making requests for proposals from other  
11 service providers to compare with the costs being charged for similar sized  
12 plans in the marketplace; or

13 c. negotiating to cap the amount of revenue sharing or ensure that any  
14 excessive amounts were returned to the Plan.

15 75. The amount of compensation paid to Fidelity vastly exceeds any DOL  
16 and IRS prohibited transaction "reasonable compensation" exemption for "cost plus  
17 reasonable profit."

18 76. In sum, the Plan unreasonably paid Fidelity fees far in excess of what  
19 the Plan needed to pay for their services and these fees were not tethered to the  
20 actual services rendered, but rather varied based on revenue sharing of a larger  
21 corpus of Plan funds over time.

22 77. ERISA holds fiduciaries "to a high standard of care and diligence"  
23 regarding fees: Fiduciaries must, among other things, "[e]stablish a prudent process  
24 for selecting investment options and service providers"; "[e]nsure that fees paid to  
25 service providers and other plan expenses are reasonable in light of the level and  
26 quality of services provided"; and "[m]onitor investment options and service  
27 providers once selected to make sure they continue to be appropriate choices."  
28 Additionally, The Department of Labor has consistently reminded ERISA fiduciaries

1 of their responsibilities to carefully evaluate fees when selecting plan investment  
2 options and then monitor fees on an ongoing basis. Defendants breached their  
3 fiduciary duties by failing to conduct themselves accordingly.

4 **B. Defendants Caused the Plan Participants to Pay Excessive Fees and Lose**  
5 **Returns by Failing to Offer, Monitor, and Investigate Available Lower**  
6 **Cost Mutual Share Classes as Plan Investment Options**

7 78. An ERISA fiduciary's evaluation of plan investments must be focused  
8 solely on economic considerations that have a material effect on the risk and return  
9 of an investment based on appropriate investment horizons, consistent with the  
10 plan's funding policy and investment policy objectives. The corollary principle is  
11 that ERISA fiduciaries must never sacrifice investment returns, take on additional  
12 investment risk, or pay higher fees to promote non-pecuniary benefits or goals.

13 79. A fiduciary may not subordinate the interests of the participants and  
14 beneficiaries in their retirement income or financial benefits under the plan to other  
15 objectives, and may not sacrifice investment return or take on additional investment  
16 risk to promote non-pecuniary benefits or goals such as to seek to burden  
17 participants/beneficiaries with fund expenses such as SEC Rule 12b-1 fees,  
18 subtransfer agency fees, shareholder servicing fees, commissions, finder's  
19 (incentive) fees or other types of fees just so their selected covered service providers  
20 are paid from participants/beneficiaries.

21 80. The weight given to any pecuniary factor by a fiduciary should  
22 appropriately reflect a prudent assessment of its impact on risk-return. Revenue  
23 sharing always costs more (evidence follows) than the credit the Defendants are  
24 seeking to offset the receipt of an invoice by their chosen covered service providers.

25 81. In the context of ERISA retirement plans such interests must be  
26 understood to refer to "financial" rather than "nonpecuniary" benefits, and Federal  
27 appellate courts have described ERISA's fiduciary duties as "the highest known to  
28 the law."

1           82. Mutual funds make a profit by charging investors operating expenses,  
2 which are expressed as a percentage of the total assets in the fund. Operating  
3 expenses include fund management fees, marketing and distribution fees,  
4 administrative expenses and other costs.

5           83. Mutual funds often offer multiple “classes” of their shares to investors.  
6 Each class represents an identical interest in the mutual fund’s portfolio. The  
7 principal difference between the classes is that the mutual fund will charge different  
8 operating expenses depending on the class.

9           84. A mutual fund may charge an annual expense ratio of 1% of the gross  
10 assets of the fund to one share class, while charging a higher class share in that same  
11 fund an expense ratio of .50%. Thus, an investor who purchases the share class with  
12 a lower operating expense will realize a .50% greater annual return on his/her  
13 investment compared to an investor who purchases the share class with the higher  
14 operating expense. Generally, lower class shares are available to larger investors,  
15 such as 401(k) plans like the Plan.

16           85. Plans that invest their participants’ funds in lower share classes and  
17 subject them to higher fees engage in share class violations which are the most clear  
18 and obvious breaches of fiduciary duties in the Plan. *See Tibble v. Edison*, 2017 U.S.  
19 Dist. LEXIS 130806, \*40 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 16, 2017) (“Because the institutional share  
20 classes are otherwise identical to the retail share classes, but with lower fees, a  
21 prudent fiduciary would know immediately that a switch is necessary.”).

22           86. Since at least 2017, Defendants have offered higher cost mutual fund  
23 share classes as investment options for the Plan even though at all times lower cost  
24 class shares of those exact same mutual funds were readily available to the Plan.

25           87. Indeed, Defendants have provided as many as 25 fund choices with  
26 clear share class violations.

27           88. Defendants selected the Plan’s investment options. In this case, on  
28 information and belief, Fidelity, the Plan’s recordkeeper, and NFP, the Plan’s

investment advisor, provided Defendants with a universe of pooled investment options from which to select a subset to offer Plaintiff and the other Plan participants.

89. Defendants chose and continued to maintain a pool of investment options, including those offered by Fidelity and NFP at the expense of participants and beneficiaries of the Plan by routinely offering higher cost share classes rather than readily available lower cost options.

**Summary Table**

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Funds #	28	28	28	27	27	27
Cheaper Shares Classes Available #	24	25	25	24	24	24
Cheaper Shares Classes Available %	86%	89%	89%	89%	89%	89%

90. Every fund invested in expensive share classes was imprudently selected and retained. In this regard, evaluation of certain exemplar funds shows that Defendants' selection and retention of expensive share classes reflected a lack of prudent processes because investing in expensive share classes causes return lags compared to investments in less expensive share classes and offers the Plan no pecuniary benefit and the Plan could easily have switched to the less expensive share classes but failed to do so.

91. The use of expensive share classes was likely motivated by an improper desire to hide fees from Plan participants by using revenue sharing to pay fees instead of directly drawing them from the Plan or Defendants being billed directly for the fees. But as demonstrated below, the fund invested in share classes that charged excess fees which created a drag on fund performance that was not justified by the desire to generate fees for revenue sharing.

92. Rather than benefiting the Plan, the use of expensive share classes benefits the investment advisor at the expense of the Plan because it generates excess fees which are only partially rebated over a period of time to the Plan and may also generate additional kickbacks to the investment advisor.

1           93. A prudent fiduciary would have recognized that the investment in an  
2 expensive share class was directly eroding the Plan's gains from the investments and  
3 would have switched to the cheaper share class.

4           94. Other fiduciaries in similar circumstances have migrated Plan funds to  
5 cheaper share classes in recognition of the fact that investment in the more expensive  
6 share class is not in the pecuniary interest of the Plan.

7           95. The following chart illustrates the differences in the operating costs and  
8 returns between the share classes chosen by Defendants and the least expensive share  
9 class available as of January 1, 2017 for funds that were in the Plan during the entire  
10 six year period ending December 31, 2022.

11           96. The fund name listed in the first row and shaded grey represents the  
12 share class chosen by Defendants. The second fund name listed and not shaded  
13 represents the cheaper share class Defendants should have chosen which was  
14 available to them throughout the duration of the Plan. The bolded line represents the  
15 difference in costs (expenses charged), 12-month yield and the investment returns for  
16 the one- and annualized three- and five-year – and six year performance periods  
17 ending 12/31/2021.

18           97. Additionally, to highlight the harm caused by the Defendants'  
19 imprudent selection of high-cost share classes, the three-five-six- year cumulative  
20 returns are included, which shows the compounding effect of excess fees paid over  
21 the course of each year.

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**COST OF EXPENSIVE SHARE CLASSS FOR FUNDS IN PLAN**  
**Cumulative (Total) Returns**  
**(Ending 12/31/22)**

Name	Expense Ratio %	1- Year % Total	3- Year % Total	3- Year %/3*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class	6-Year Total	6- Year %/6*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class
T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500	0.15	5.01	24.12			88.91		
T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500 I	0.05	5.29	24.60			90.44		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.10</b>	<b>-0.28</b>	<b>-0.48</b>	<b>-0.16</b>	<b>-\$237,176.10</b>	<b>-1.53</b>	<b>-0.25</b>	<b>-\$544,425.43</b>
JPMorgan US Research Enhanced Equity I	0.35	6.82	28.90			94.27		
JPMorgan US Research Enhanced Equity R6	0.25	7.05	29.29			95.51		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.10</b>	<b>-0.23</b>	<b>-0.40</b>	<b>-0.13</b>	<b>-\$101,636</b>	<b>-1.23</b>	<b>-0.21</b>	<b>-\$281,618.54</b>
MFS Growth R4	0.59	-14.88	12.05			107.12		
MFS Growth R6	0.49	-14.71	12.36			108.28		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.10</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>-0.11</b>	<b>-\$152,079</b>	<b>-1.16</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-\$319,093.44</b>
JPMorgan Equity Income R5	0.55	0.55	27.75			-		
JPMorgan Equity Income R6	0.45	0.45	28.17			-		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.10</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>-0.42</b>	<b>-0.14</b>	<b>-\$19,118</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>
Fidelity® Low-Priced Stock	0.82	17.29	28.23			73.53		
Fidelity® Low-Priced Stock K	0.74					74.44		
Fidelity® Low-Priced Stock K6	0.50	18.23	29.24					
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>-0.94</b>	<b>-1.02</b>	<b>-0.34</b>	<b>-\$227,010</b>	<b>-0.92</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-\$204,896.50</b>
iShares Russell 2000 Small-Cap Idx Instl	0.12	-8.66	9.58			-		
iShares Russell 2000 Small-Cap Idx K	0.07	-8.55	9.75			-		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.05</b>	<b>-0.12</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-0.06</b>	<b>-\$50,498</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>



Name	Expense Ratio %	1- Year % Total	3- Year % / Total	3- Year % / 3*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class	6-Year Total	6- Year % / 6*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class
Hartford International Opportunities Y	0.77	-11.71	6.49			36.24		
Hartford International Opportunities R6	0.69	-11.58	6.77			36.77		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	<b>-0.13</b>	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>-\$56,308</b>	<b>-0.53</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>-\$107,332.00</b>
iShares MSCI EAFE Intl Idx Inv A	0.34	-4.93	2.37			34.23		
iShares MSCI EAFE Intl Idx K	0.04	-4.34	3.38			36.77		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.30</b>	<b>-0.59</b>	<b>-1.02</b>	<b>-0.34</b>	<b>-\$63,560</b>	<b>-2.53</b>	<b>-0.42</b>	<b>-\$146,201.41</b>
Allspring Core Bond Inst	0.42	-14.89	-7.38			3.75		
Allspring Core Bond R6	0.37	-14.80	-7.32			4.06		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.05</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>-0.07</b>	<b>-0.02</b>	<b>-\$2,147</b>	<b>-0.31</b>	<b>-0.05</b>	<b>-\$5,375.01</b>
Fidelity® Balanced	0.50	-3.23	18.47			64.78		
Fidelity® Balanced K	0.43					65.58		
Fidelity® Balanced K6	0.32	-2.62	19.53					
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.60</b>	<b>-1.05</b>	<b>-0.35</b>	<b>-\$341,553</b>	<b>-0.80</b>	<b>-0.13</b>	<b>-\$219,490.00</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2005	0.49	-6.71	3.78			27.86		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2005 I	0.34	-6.44	4.33			28.90		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>-0.55</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-\$5,142</b>	<b>-1.04</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-\$8,678.15</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2010	0.49	-6.48	4.65			30.83		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2010 I	0.34	-6.14	5.18			31.92		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-0.34</b>	<b>-0.53</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-\$7,371</b>	<b>-1.09</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-\$14,066.86</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2015	0.51	-5.99	5.83			34.95		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2015 I	0.36	-5.81	6.27			36.01		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.44</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-\$15,509</b>	<b>-1.06</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-\$52,564.05</b>

Name	Expense Ratio %	1- Year % Total	3- Year % / Total	3- Year % / 3*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class	6-Year Total	6- Year % / 6*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2020	0.53	-5.72	-5.72			40.14		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2020 I	0.37	-5.40	-5.40			41.23		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.16</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>-0.11</b>	<b>-\$54,928</b>	<b>-1.09</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-\$183,808.95</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2025	0.55	-5.64	8.21			45.37		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2025 I	0.39	-5.28	8.57			46.39		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.16</b>	<b>-0.36</b>	<b>-0.35</b>	<b>-0.12</b>	<b>-\$116,348</b>	<b>-1.01</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-\$239,362.82</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2030	0.58	-5.73	9.26			49.81		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2030 I	0.41	-5.43	9.62			50.84		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-0.30</b>	<b>-0.36</b>	<b>-0.12</b>	<b>-\$169,740</b>	<b>-1.03</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-\$295,820.66</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2035	0.59	-5.68	10.40			53.73		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2035 I	0.42	-5.30	10.84			54.89		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-0.38</b>	<b>-0.44</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-\$164,320</b>	<b>-1.16</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-\$279,627.70</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040	0.60	-5.59	11.51			57.24		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2040 I	0.43	-5.24	11.97			58.44		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-0.35</b>	<b>-0.46</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-\$152,947</b>	<b>-1.21</b>	<b>-0.20</b>	<b>-\$242,390.28</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 (2014)	0.62	-5.19	12.49			59.60		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2045 I	0.44	-4.86	12.96			60.71		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.33</b>	<b>-0.46</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-\$115,336</b>	<b>-1.12</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-\$152,743.77</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 (2014)	0.63	-5.14	12.57			59.57		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2050 I	0.45	-4.90	12.90			60.70		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.24</b>	<b>-0.33</b>	<b>-0.11</b>	<b>-\$40,985</b>	<b>-1.13</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-\$68,694.72</b>

Name	Expense Ratio %	1- Year % Total	3- Year % Total	3- Year %/3*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class	6-Year % Total	6- Year %/6*	Returns Lost for Using Expensive Share Class
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2055 (2014)	0.64	-5.27	12.30			59.11		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2055 I	0.46	-4.91	12.86			60.61		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.36</b>	<b>-0.56</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-\$26,987</b>	<b>-1.50</b>	<b>-0.25</b>	<b>-\$22,603.86</b>
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2060 (2014)	0.64	-5.23	12.27			59.10		
T. Rowe Price Retirement I 2060 I	0.46	-4.91	12.97			60.77		
<b>Cost of Expensive Share Classes</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>-0.69</b>	<b>-0.23</b>	<b>-\$10,622</b>	<b>-1.67</b>	<b>-0.28</b>	<b>-\$2,100.98</b>
					<b>-\$2,131,322</b>			

\* The 3-Year %/3 and 6-Year %/6 figures illustrate that the cost to participants in lost returns is typically greater than the charged annual expenses.

Funds that were removed from the Plan during the Class Period are not included in this table but Plaintiffs challenge Defendants maintenance of high-fee share classes for all funds throughout the Class Period

98. Defendants may seek to explain that they offered higher cost share classes with higher fee burdens by pointing to the Plan's ability to use those fees for revenue sharing arrangements. But this does not justify the increased fees and lost returns imposed on Plan participants. Rather, empirically speaking, revenue sharing burdens on mutual fund investors are *always* more costly than the revenue sharing credit offered by the corresponding mutual fund share class.

99. In other words, investing Plan assets in higher cost share classes does not benefit plan participants because it causes them to pay excess indirect fees which are not tethered to any service provided to Plan participants but rather are tied to the amounts invested by Plan participants.

100. The use of share classes to create funds for revenue sharing does not justify the increased fees and lost returns imposed on Plan participants. Rather, empirically speaking, revenue sharing burdens on mutual fund investors are always more costly over time than the revenue sharing credit offered by the corresponding mutual fund share class.

1           101. In addition, because rebates are only made after a set period of time, the  
2 Plan effectively lends out the rebated funds until such time as the rebate comes  
3 through, rather than keeping them in the Trust and accruing gains during that time.

4           102. Moreover, Plan participants are generally not aware of the fee burden  
5 that their 401k accounts bear from indirect fees. Unlike direct fees, which are clearly  
6 listed on participants' statements, indirect fees are unshown and unknown to those  
7 paying those costs.

8           103. Indeed, because not all funds generate fees for revenue sharing, only  
9 those participants invested in the revenue sharing funds pay for the revenue sharing  
10 and the other participants get a free ride – which is impermissible discrimination  
11 against participants.

12           104. Likewise, the rebate formula used may not equitably return funds to  
13 participants if participants make withdrawals or transfer out of the fund prior to the  
14 credit being posted.

15           105. Further, by focusing on funds with expensive share classes that  
16 generated high funds for revenue sharing, the Plan limited the universe of funds  
17 available for selection and selects funds based on revenue generating share classes as  
18 opposed to the best interests of the Plan itself.

19           106. Because the Plan could have invested in identical mutual funds with a  
20 lower cost share class, the Defendants' actions were directly erosive to the trust's  
21 growth.

22           107. Defendants thus caused Plan participants/beneficiaries harm by not just  
23 forcing them to pay higher fees, but also caused lost yield and returns as a result of  
24 those higher fees on many of the mutual funds offered through the Plan. The erosive  
25 effect of excessive fees and the resulting lost returns compounds over time  
26 substantially lowering the corpus of participants' retirement investments.

27           108. In selecting share classes with higher fees, Defendants demonstrated a  
28 lack of basic skill and prudence when selecting investments.

1           109. Not only did the Defendants fail to use the Plan's bargaining power to  
2 leverage lower cost mutual fund options for the Plan participants, they did not need  
3 to as the fund assets qualified them to meet any minimum initial investment  
4 requirements. Furthermore, to the extent they did not explicitly meet the minimum  
5 asset requirement, many mutual fund companies will waive those requirements in  
6 qualified plans.

7           110. Lastly, the information available for Defendants to make an informed  
8 assessment as to costs and returns available for each share class and to make the  
9 assessments noted above was made available in each fund's annual prospectus at the  
10 time the choices were made and Defendants also could and should have had  
11 processes in place to monitor the share classes of the Plan's investments but failed to  
12 put in place such processes.

13           111. The Defendants' actions to choose high-cost funds demonstrates a lack  
14 of prudence. For example, as shown in the chart above, the JPMorgan US Research  
15 Enhanced Equity I expensive share class had fees of thirty-five basis points  
16 (0.35%/yr) as opposed to the share class with lower fees of twenty-five basis points  
17 (0.25%/yr). The total fees paid for the share class with higher fees was therefore ten  
18 basis points per year (0.10%/yr).

19           112. In other words, Defendants caused Plan participants who invested in  
20 that JPMorgan US Research Enhanced Equity fund to pay .10% more in fees than  
21 necessary and permitted plan's contracted recordkeeper and/or financial advisor to  
22 collect a portion of those increased fees.

23           113. Likewise with the iShares MSCI EAFE Intl Idx fund, Defendants chose  
24 the higher fee Inv A share class that had fees of thirty-four basis points (0.34%/yr) as  
25 opposed to the share class with lower fees of four basis points (0.04%/yr). The total  
26 fees paid for the share class with higher fees was therefore thirty basis points per  
27 year (0.30%/yr).

114. Additionally, an analysis of each attribute of the different share classes reveals that there is no difference between the share classes other than costs and performance returns as a consequence of costs, all borne by the participants.

115. Wasting the trust's money (i.e., participants/beneficiaries' money) violates subsections (A), (B) and (D) of ERISA Section 404(a)(1) above. In devising and implementing strategies for the investment and management of trust assets, trustees are obligated to "minimize costs." Uniform Prudent Investor Act (the "UPIA") §7.

116. As is evident from the allegations in the Complaint, Defendants did not systemically and regularly review or institute other processes in place to fulfill their continuing obligation to monitor Plan investments and reduce Plan costs, or, in the alternative, failed to follow the processes, as evidenced by the offering of higher cost share classes as Plan investment options when lower cost options of the same funds were available.

117. A prudent fiduciary conducting an impartial review of the Plan's investments would have identified the cheaper share classes available and transferred the Plan's investments in the above-referenced funds into the lower share classes at the earliest opportunity. The total amount of excess mutual fund expenses paid by Plan participants over the past six years, which correspondingly reduced the return on the Plan participants' investments, resulted in millions of dollars of damages to participants.

**C. Defendants Maintained Imprudent Funds that Fell Below the Reasonable Standard of Care, Which Lagged in Benchmark Comparisons, and for which they Selected Expensive Share Classes When Cheaper and Better Performing Funds Were Available**

118. Plan fiduciaries have a continuing duty to monitor investments and remove imprudent ones.

119. When considering fund performance, Plan fiduciaries must consider several relevant performance benchmarks.

120. In this regard, mutual fund portfolio managers choose a benchmark index to use in their prospectus as a comparison for evaluating fund performance often referred to as the Primary Prospectus Benchmark (“PBM”).

121. However, in addition to the PBM selected by the fund managers themselves, third parties may provide more appropriate comparators for each fund than the fund-selected comparator.

122. Morningstar, Inc. (“Morningstar”) is one such third party and a respected financial services company that provides research and analytics that are used throughout the asset management industry.

123. In 1996, Morningstar created category classifications to help investors make meaningful comparisons between mutual funds.

124. “Morningstar found that the investment objective listed in a fund’s prospectus often did not adequately explain how the fund actually invested” and Morningstar “solved this problem by breaking portfolios into peer groups based on their holdings” which “help investors identify the top performing funds, assess potential risk, and build well-diversified portfolios.”<sup>3</sup>

125. Per Morningstar,

[t]he driving principles behind the classification system are as follows:

- Individual portfolios within a category invest in similar types of securities and therefore share the same risk factors (for example, style risk, prepayment risk).
- Individual portfolios within a category can, in general, be expected to behave more similarly to one another than to portfolios outside the category.
- The aggregate performance of different categories differs materially over time.
- Categories have enough constituents to form the basis for reasonable peer group comparisons.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://morningstardirect.morningstar.com/clientcomm/morningstar\\_categories\\_us\\_april\\_2016.pdf](http://morningstardirect.morningstar.com/clientcomm/morningstar_categories_us_april_2016.pdf)



- The distinctions between categories are meaningful to investors and assist in their pursuit of investing goals.<sup>4</sup>

126. Critically, Morningstar determined that funds may select broad-based market comparators as their primary benchmark and that the funds may reflect a “low degree of correlation” with the corresponding benchmark.<sup>5</sup>

127. In order to provide a better measure of fund performance, Morningstar publishes data on each fund’s performance compared to Morningstar selected benchmarks.

128. First, the Morningstar Category Index (“MCI”) is a category specific index that allows investors and advisors to compare fund performance to benchmarks that may be a better fit to the true makeup of a fund than the fund-selected PBM.

129. MCIs are commonly used as comparators in investment selection, monitoring and reporting tools used by investment managers and 401(k) investment committees. MCI comparisons can be beneficial because they typically represent the weighted returns of the vast majority of investments within a specific asset-class (i.e. large-cap growth or small-cap value) which allows those selecting and monitoring investments to better identify risk and return derivations between the mutual funds they are reviewing.

130. Second, Morningstar selects a Best-Fit Index (“BFI”) for each fund based on the composition of the fund over the prior 36-month period.<sup>6</sup> Because the fund is highly correlated to its BFI, comparison of a fund to its BFI makes it is easier to determine how much of a fund’s movements are based on the movements of the index, the relative level of risk a portfolio manager is taking, and ultimately whether a portfolio manager is adding value.

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.morningstar.com/articles/372237/understanding-best-fit-versus-standard-indexes>

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*



131. The MCI and BFI are strong comparators and useful tools for evaluating fund performance because portfolio managers of funds with the same investment purpose make buy and sell decisions based on the same pool of investments (stocks and/or bonds). These benchmarks help investors determine whether a specific portfolio manager has skill determining what assets to hold within that pool and how much to over/underweight certain investments and when to buy and sell.

132. When evaluating fund performance, a prudent fiduciary considers data on a fund's performance against all relevant benchmarks including its MCI and BFI when evaluating fund performance because those comparators evaluate whether the fund is performing well based on the actual purpose and design of the fund.

133. As discussed below, Defendants maintained funds that underperformed their relevant benchmarks and offered expensive share classes when lower fee and better performing funds were available.

#### **T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500**

134. Defendants have imprudently maintained the Plan's investment in the T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500 fund despite its poor performance and high fees.

135. As discussed above, Defendants imprudently selected an expensive share class for this fund when identical, cheaper share classes were available.

136. Additionally, it is not prudent to continue to maintain the fund in the Plan because it has been substantially outperformed by its PBM and BFI, the S&P 500 TR USD.

#### **T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500 vs MCI, BFI and PBM (1/1/2017 - 12/31/2022)**

Investment	+/- MCI	+/- BFI	+/- PBM
T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500	0.53	(2.23)	(2.23)
<i>Difference vs MCI</i>	\$188,270.24		
<i>Difference vs BFI</i>		(\$792,998.10)	
<i>Difference vs PBM</i>			(\$792,998.10)

137. Although the fund slightly outperformed its MCI, the fund vastly underperformed its PBM, which is also its BFI.

138. This underperformance and the imprudence of maintaining American T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500 fund during the class period is also evidenced by the fact that the fund underperformed its relevant benchmark comparators for the ten years prior to its selection in 2014 and in the time period since selection.

<i>Fund Name</i>	<i>+/- PBM Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- PBM since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>+/- BFI Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- BFI since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>+/- MCI Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- MCI since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>
T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500 (2014)	(5.16)	(4.70)	(5.16)	(4.70)	(12.47)	0.73

1. Represents the funds' +/- return relative to the benchmark ten year prior to the year the fund was selected

2. Represents the funds' +/- return relative to the benchmark since the year fund was selected through the end of 2022

139. Further, Defendants could have selected for the Plan the same investment vehicle with lower fees, the Fidelity 500 Index fund. Both of the funds are designed to track the S&P 500. As demonstrated below, Defendants' failure to select this lower fee index fund has cost the Plan in excess of \$738,341.

140. In fact, the comparator fund was in the Plan until 2014 as the Spartan 500 Index fund. Defendants cost the plan by replacing it with the higher fee T. Rowe Price fund and maintain the T. Rowe Price fund in the Plan.

Investments	Prospectus Benchmark (PBM)	Prospectus Net Expense Ratio	1/1/17 - 12/31/22			Difference During Period (\$)
			BOY 2017 Assets	Return (Cumulative)	+/- PBM	
T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500	S&P 500 TR USD	0.15	35,588,828	88.91	-2.23	
Fidelity® 500 Index	S&P 500 TR USD	0.02		90.98	-0.15	
<b>Cost of High Fee Fund</b>		<b>(0.14)</b>		<b>(2.07)</b>		<b>(738,341)</b>

## MFS Growth R4

141. Defendants have imprudently maintained the Plan's investment in the MFS Growth R4 fund despite its poor performance and high fees.

142. As discussed above, Defendants imprudently maintained expensive share classes for this fund when identical, cheaper share classes were available.

143. Additionally, it is not prudent to continue to maintain the fund in the Plan because it has been substantially outperformed by its PBM, the Russell 1000 Growth TR USD, which is also its MCI.

### MFS Growth R4 vs MCI, BFI and PBM (1/1/2017 - 12/31/2022)

Investment	+/- MCI	+/- BFI	+/- PBM
MFS Growth R4	(11.90)	6.74	(11.90)
<i>Difference vs MCI</i>	(\$3,282,764.57)		
<i>Difference vs BFI</i>		\$1,857,109.30	
<i>Difference vs PBM</i>			(\$3,282,764.57)

144. The fund significantly underperformed its PBM, which is also its MCI.

145. This underperformance and the imprudence of maintaining the American T. MFS Growth R4 fund during the class period is also evidenced by the fact that the fund massively underperformed its PBM and MCI in the eleven-year period since it was selected, including during the class period, through 2022.

<i>Fund Name</i>	<i>+/- PBM since Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- BFI since Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- MCI since Selection<sup>1</sup></i>
MFS Growth R4 (2012)	(33.48)	4.88	(33.48)

146. Further, Defendants could have selected for the Plan a substantially identical investment with lower fees, the TIAA-CREF Large-Cap Gr Idx Instl fund.

147. The TIAA-CREF Large-Cap Gr Idx Instl fund is an appropriate comparator to the MFS Growth fund because they share a PBM and are both “Large Growth” investments used by investors for identical investment purposes.

148. Both funds hold widely-known large cap companies within their top 20 holdings including Alphabet (Google), Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, NVIDIA, UnitedHealth Group, Visa, and others (based on an analysis performed through Morningstar on May 25, 2023).

149. They both use the Russell 1000 Growth TR USD as their primary prospectus benchmark and both track it closely with the TIAA-CREF fund having an r-squared score of 100 as it is designed to track this benchmark and the MFS Growth fund having a score of 96.94 compared to the benchmark during the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

150. As demonstrated below, Defendants’ failure to select this lower fee, better performing index fund has cost the Plan in excess of \$3 million.

Investments	Prospectus Benchmark (PBM)	Prospectus Net Expense Ratio	1/1/17 - 12/31/22			Difference During Period (\$)
			BOY 2017 Assets	Return (Cumulative)	+/- PBM	
MFS Growth R4	Russell 1000 Growth TR USD	0.59	27,571,255	107.12	-11.90	
TIAA-CREF Large-Cap Gr Idx Instl	Russell 1000 Growth TR USD	0.05		118.19	-0.83	
<b><i>Cost of High Fee Fund</i></b>		<b>(0.54)</b>		<b>(11.07)</b>		<b>(3,052,337)</b>

### JPMorgan US Small Company L

151. Defendants imprudently maintained the Plan’s investment in the JPMorgan US Small Company L fund through 2019 despite its poor performance and high fees.

152. Defendants imprudently maintained an expensive share class for this fund when identical, cheaper share classes were available.

<sup>7</sup> R-squared values are used to calculate correlation between a fund and an index with scores ranging from 0 to 100. A score approaching 100 indicates that a fund’s performance is highly correlated with the index it tracks.

153. Additionally, it was not prudent to maintain the fund in the Plan when it was being substantially outperformed by its PBM and MCI, the Russell 2000 TR USD, and by its BFI, the Morningstar US Sml Ext TR USD.

**JPMorgan US Small Company L vs MCI, BFI and PBM  
(1/1/2017 - 12/31/2019)**

Investment	+/- MCI	+/- BFI	+/- PBM
JPMorgan US Small Company L	(7.08)	(10.38)	(7.08)
<i>Difference vs MCI</i>	(\$3,948,672.49)		
<i>Difference vs BFI</i>		(\$3,713,116.76)	
<i>Difference vs PBM</i>			(\$3,948,672.49)

154. This underperformance and the imprudence of selecting and maintaining the JPMorgan US Small Company L fund during the class period is also evidenced by the fact that the fund massively underperformed its BFI in the ten years prior to selection (while barely outperforming its MCI and PBM during that period), and underperformed its PBM, MCI, and BFM in the six year period after it was selected until it was finally removed at or around the end of 2019.

<i>Fund Name</i>	<i>+/- PBM Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- PBM since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>+/- BFI Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- BFI since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>+/- MCI Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- MCI since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>
JPMorgan US Small Company L (2014 - 2019)	0.95	(7.08)	(16.83)	(6.11)	0.95	(7.08)

1. Represents the funds' +/- return relative to the benchmark ten year prior to the year the fund was selected

2. Represents the funds' +/- return relative to the benchmark since the year fund was selected through the end of 2019

155. Further, Defendants could have selected for the Plan a substantially identical investment with lower fees, the iShares Russell 2000 Small-Cap Idx K fund.

156. The iShares Russell 2000 Small-Cap Idx K fund is an appropriate comparator to the MFS Growth fund because they share a PBM and are both “Small Blend” investments used by investors for identical investment purposes.

157. Both funds have similar holdings by sector as shown in the table below (based on an analysis performed using Morningstar data on June 1, 2023).

	JPMorgan US Small Company L (Investment %)	iShares Russell 2000 Small- Cap Idx K (Investment %)
Basic Materials	4.28	4.26
Consumer Cyclical	11.31	10.35
Financial Services	14.55	15.99
Real Estate	6.35	7.72
Communication Services	2.22	2.58
Energy	5.44	6.71
Industrials	14.68	14.83
Technology	16.05	13.62
Consumer Defensive	5.50	4.25
Healthcare	16.63	16.21
Utilities	2.99	3.49

158. They both use the Russell 2000 TR USD as their primary prospectus benchmark and both track it closely with the iShares fund having a score of 100 as it is designed to track this benchmark and the JPMorgan fund having an r-squared score of 97.98 compared to the benchmark during the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019 (when the JP Morgan fund was removed from the Plan).

159. In fact, Defendants ultimately did replace the JPMorgan US Small Company L fund with the iShares Russell 2000 Small-Cap Idx K, confirming that they are functionally equivalent for purposes of the Plan.

160. As demonstrated below, Defendants’ failure to select this lower fee, better performing index fund cost the Plan in excess of \$4 million.

Investments	Prospectus Benchmark (PBM)	Prospectus Net Expense Ratio	1/1/17 - 12/31/19			
			BOY 2017 Assets	Return (Cumulative)	+/- PBM	Difference During Period (\$)
JPMorgan US Small Company L (ly 2019)	Russell 2000 TR USD	0.81	35,786,235	17.03	-11.03	
iShares Russell 2000 Small-Cap Idx K (IS 2020)	Russell 2000 TR USD	0.07		28.32	0.26	
<b>Cost of High Fee Fund</b>		<b>(0.74)</b>		<b>(11.29)</b>		<b>(4,040,067)</b>

### Janus Henderson Triton I

161. Defendants imprudently maintained the Plan's investment in the Janus Henderson Triton I fund through 2021 despite its poor performance and high fees.

162. Defendants imprudently maintained an expensive share class for this fund when identical, cheaper share classes were available.

163. Additionally, it was not prudent to maintain the fund in the Plan when it was being substantially outperformed by its PBM, the Russell 2500 Growth TR USD.

<b>Janus Henderson Triton I vs MCI, BFI and PBM (1/1/2017 - 12/31/2021)</b>	
Investment	+/- PBM
Janus Henderson Triton I	(12.21)
<i>Difference vs PBM</i>	<i>(\$2,991,515.01)</i>

164. Defendants could have selected for the Plan a substantially identical investment with lower fees, the Vanguard Explorer Adm fund.

165. The Vanguard Explorer Adm fund is an appropriate comparator to the Janus Henderson Triton fund because they share a PBM and are both "Small Growth" investments used by investors for identical investment purposes.

166. Both funds invest largely in small and medium-sized companies and they both use the Russell 2500 Growth TR USD as their primary prospectus

benchmark. They both track the benchmark closely with the Vanguard Explorer Adm fund having an r-squared score of 96.48 compared to the benchmark and the Janus Henderson Triton fund having a score of 96.038 compared to the benchmark during the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021.

167. In fact, Defendants ultimately did replace the Janus Henderson Triton fund with the Vanguard Explorer Adm fund in 2022, confirming that they are equivalent investments for purposes of the Plan.

168. As demonstrated below, Defendants' failure to select this lower fee, better performing fund cost the Plan nearly \$7 million.

Investments	Prospectus Benchmark (PBM)	Prospectus Net Expense Ratio	1/1/17 - 12/31/21			
			BOY 2017 Assets	Return (Cumulative)	+/- PBM	Difference During Period (\$)
Janus Henderson Triton I (ly 2021)	Russell 2500 Growth TR USD	0.76	24,494,101	113.20	-12.21	
Vanguard Explorer Adm (2022)	Russell 2500 Growth TR USD	0.34		141.60	16.18	
<b><i>Cost of High Fee Fund</i></b>		<b>(0.42)</b>		<b>(28.39)</b>		<b>(6,954,701)</b>

### **PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val Z**

169. Defendants have imprudently maintained the Plan's investment in the PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val Z fund despite its poor performance and high fees.

170. Defendants imprudently maintained an expensive share class for this fund when an identical, cheaper share class was available.

171. Additionally, it was not prudent to maintain the fund in the Plan until 2019 because it was substantially outperformed by its PBM and MCI, the Russell 2000 Value TR USD, as well as its BFI, the Morningstar US Sml Brd Val Ext TR USD.



**PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val Z vs MCI, BFI and PBM  
(1/1/2017 - 12/31/2019)**

Investment	+/- MCI	+/- BFI	+/- PBM
PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val Z	(12.32)	(11.39)	(12.32)
<i>Difference vs MCI</i>	(\$478,463.60)		
<i>Difference vs BFI</i>		(\$442,651.55)	
<i>Difference vs PBM</i>			(\$478,463.60)

172. This underperformance and the imprudence of maintaining the PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val fund during the class period is also evidenced by the fact that even though it performed well prior to selection, the fund underperformed its PBM and MCI in the eleven-year period since it was selected, including during the class period, through 2022.

<i>Fund Name</i>	<i>+/- PBM Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- PBM since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>+/- BFI Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- BFI since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>+/- MCI Prior to Selection<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>+/- MCI since Selection<sup>2</sup></i>
PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val Z (2015-2019)	47.28	(12.34)	(.07)	(6.45)	47.28	(12.34)

1. Represents the funds' +/- return relative to the benchmark ten year prior to the year the fund was selected

2. Represents the funds' +/- return relative to the benchmark since the year fund was selected through the end of 2022

173. Further, Defendants could have selected for the Plan a substantially identical investment with lower fees, the Vanguard Russell 2000 Value Index I fund.

174. The Vanguard Russell 2000 Value Index I fund is an appropriate comparator to the PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val fund because they share a PBM and are both "Small Value" investments used by investors for identical investment purposes, the investment in small-cap value stocks in the United States.

175. Both funds track the benchmark closely with the Vanguard Russell 2000 Value Index I fund having a score of 100 as it is designed to track this benchmark and the PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val fund having an r-squared score of

96.68 compared to the benchmark during the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019 (when the PGIM fund was removed from the Plan)

176. Both funds have similar holdings by sector as shown in the table below (based on an analysis performed using Morningstar data on June 1, 2023).

	PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val Z (Investment %)	Vanguard Russell 2000 Value Index I (Investment %)
Basic Materials	5.53	3.78
Consumer Cyclical	10.83	11.97
Financial Services	26.47	23.21
Real Estate	15.32	13.22
Communication Services	3.6	2.83
Energy	7.2	5.96
Industrials	12.26	12.97
Technology	5.6	7.0
Consumer Defensive	4.65	3.85
Healthcare	7.28	10.17
Utilities	1.27	5.04

177. As demonstrated below, Defendants' failure to select this lower fee, better performing index fund cost the Plan nearly \$500,000.

Investments	Prospectus Benchmark (PBM)	Prospectus Net Expense Ratio	1/1/17 - 12/31/19			Difference During Period (\$)
			BOY 2017 Assets	Return (Cumulative)	+/- PBM	
PGIM Quant Solutions Small-Cap Val Z	Russell 2000 Value TR USD	0.79	3,884,773	2.69	-12.32	
Vanguard Russell 2000 Value Index I	Russell 2000 Value TR USD	0.08		15.13	0.13	
<b>Cost of Active Management</b>		<b>(0.71)</b>		<b>(12.44)</b>		<b>(483,381)</b>

178. Defendants were aware of or should have been aware of the performance discussed above and had a duty to actively cull expensive underperforming funds whose continued inclusion in the Plan could not be justified

1 and which were costing Plan participants excess fees that were not justified by  
2 performance.

3 179. During the Class Period, Defendants failed to consider and monitor  
4 materially similar but cheaper alternatives to the Plan's investment options discussed  
5 above. This failure is a further indication that Defendants lacked a prudent  
6 investment monitoring process and breached their fiduciary duties to the Plan.

7 180. Defendants have a continuing duty to evaluate the Plan funds and  
8 remove underperforming funds.

9 181. Defendants were or should have been aware of the continuous  
10 underperformance of the funds enumerated in the charts and discussed above and  
11 removed the funds from the Plan.

12 182. Defendants' failure to remove these funds from the Plan reflects either  
13 that Defendants failed to put in place a prudent investment monitoring process or  
14 failed to engage in that process.

15 183. Accordingly, Defendants breached their fiduciary duties by failing to  
16 remove the funds resulting in financial losses to the Plan and its participants.

17 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

18 184. Plaintiff brings this action in a representative capacity on behalf of the  
19 Plan and as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
20 Procedure on behalf of themselves and a Class defined as follows:

21 185. All participants in or beneficiaries of the CORELOGIC, INC. 401(K)  
22 PLAN from six years prior to the filing of the complaint in this matter through the  
23 date of judgment (the "Class Period").

24 186. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members  
25 is impracticable. The disposition of their claims in a class action will provide  
26 substantial benefits to the parties and the Court. The Plan has approximately 6,978  
27 participants with account balances.

1 187. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class  
2 predominate over questions that may affect individual class members, including,  
3 *inter alia*:

4 (a) whether Defendants are fiduciaries of the Plan;

5 (b) whether Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of prudence with  
6 respect to the Plan;

7 (c) whether Defendants had a duty to monitor other fiduciaries of the Plan;

8 (d) whether Defendants breached their duty to monitor other fiduciaries of  
9 the Plan; and

10 (e) the extent of damage sustained by Class members and the appropriate  
11 measure of damages.

12 188. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the Class because their claims  
13 arise from the same event, practice and/or course of conduct as other members of  
14 the Class.

15 189. Plaintiff will adequately protect the interests of the Class and has  
16 retained counsel experienced in class action litigation in general and ERISA class  
17 actions involving fiduciary breaches in particular.

18 190. Plaintiff has no interests that conflict with those of the Class.  
19 Defendant does not have any unique defenses against Plaintiff that would interfere  
20 with their representation of the Class.

21 191. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and  
22 efficient adjudication of this controversy. Joinder of all participants and  
23 beneficiaries is impracticable, the losses suffered by individual participants and  
24 beneficiaries may be too small for individual members to enforce their rights  
25 through individual actions, and the common questions of law and fact predominate  
26 over individual questions. Given the nature of the allegations, no class member has  
27 an interest in individually controlling the prosecution of this matter, and Plaintiffs  
28

1 are not aware of any difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of this  
2 matter as a class action.

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Breach of Fiduciary Duty of Prudence**

5 **(Against All Defendants)**

6 192. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the above paragraphs as though fully set  
7 forth herein.

8 193. Defendants were fiduciaries of the Plan under ERISA §§ 3(21) and/or  
9 402(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. §§ 1002(21) and/or 1102(a)(1) and under common law trust  
10 law because they were either designated in the Plan documents as the Plan  
11 Administrator, a named fiduciary under the Plan, performed discretionary Plan-  
12 related fiduciary functions, including the selection and monitoring of investment  
13 options for the Plan, and/or the negotiation over services and fees for the Plan,  
14 and/or were responsible for the administration and operation of the Plan.

15 194. As a fiduciary of the Plan, Defendants were required, pursuant to  
16 ERISA § 404(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1) and common law, to act: “(A) for the  
17 exclusive purpose of: (i) providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries;  
18 and (ii) defraying reasonable expenses of administering the plan”; and “(B) to  
19 discharge their duties on an ongoing basis with the care, skill, prudence, and  
20 diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like  
21 capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of  
22 a like character and with like aims.”

23 195. Common law and ERISA’s duty of prudence required Defendant to give  
24 appropriate consideration to those facts and circumstances that, given the scope of its  
25 fiduciary investment duties, it knew or should have known were relevant to the  
26 particular investments of the Plan and to act accordingly. *See* 29 C.F.R. §  
27 2550.404a-1. The Supreme Court has concluded that this duty is “a continuing duty  
28

1 to monitor [plan] investments and remove imprudent ones.” *Tibble*, 135 S. Ct. at  
2 1828.

3 196. As described above, Defendants failed to act prudently and in the best  
4 interest of the Plan and its participants and breached its fiduciary duties in various  
5 ways. Defendants failed to make decisions regarding the Plan’s investment lineup  
6 based solely on the merits of each investment and what was in the best interest of  
7 Plan participants. Defendants selected and retained investment options in the Plan  
8 despite their high cost and poor performance relative to other comparable  
9 investments and failed to investigate the availability of lower-cost share classes of  
10 certain mutual funds in the Plan. A prudent fiduciary in possession of this  
11 information would have removed these investment options, replaced them with more  
12 prudent and lower cost alternatives, and/or used the size, leverage and bargaining  
13 power of the Plan to secure significantly reduced fees for comparable investment  
14 strategies.

15 197. In addition, Defendants failed to monitor or control excessive  
16 compensation paid for recordkeeping services which resulted from the unnecessary  
17 payment of recordkeeping and other services both directly and as a percentage of  
18 assets.

19 198. In addition, Defendants failed to monitor or control excessive  
20 compensation paid for shareholder or financial advising services which resulted from  
21 the unnecessary payment of those services as a percentage of assets.

22 199. Defendants knowingly participated in each fiduciary breach of the other  
23 Plan fiduciaries, knowing that such acts were a breach, and enabled the other Plan  
24 fiduciaries to commit fiduciary breaches by failing to lawfully discharge their own  
25 duties. Defendants knew of the fiduciary breaches of the other Plan fiduciaries and  
26 failed to make any reasonable and timely effort under the circumstances to remedy  
27 the breaches. Accordingly, each defendant is also liable for the losses caused by the  
28 breaches of its co-fiduciaries under 29 U.S.C. § 1105(a).

200. As a direct and proximate result of these breaches, the Plan, Plaintiff and members of the Putative Class suffered substantial losses in the form of higher fees or lower returns on their investments than they would have otherwise experienced. Additionally and regardless of the losses incurred by Plaintiff or any member of the Class, pursuant to ERISA §§ 502(a)(2) and (a)(3), and 409(a), 29 U.S.C. §§ 1132(a)(2) and (a)(3), and 1109(a), and common law trusts, Defendants and any non-fiduciary which knowingly participated in these breaches are liable to disgorge all profits made as a result of Defendant's breaches of the duties of loyalty and prudence, and such other appropriate equitable relief as the Court deems proper.

## **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

### **Breach of Fiduciary Duties in Violation of Duty to Investigate and Monitor Investments and Covered Service Providers (Against All Defendants)**

201. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

202. Defendants had overall oversight responsibility for the Plan and control over the Plan's investment options through its authority to limit or remove the other Plan fiduciaries.

203. A monitoring fiduciary must ensure that the monitored fiduciaries are performing their fiduciary obligations, including those with respect to the investment and monitoring of plan assets, and must take prompt and effective action to protect the Plan and participants when the monitored fiduciaries fail to perform their fiduciary obligations in accordance with ERISA and common law trusts.

204. Defendants also had a duty to ensure that other Plan fiduciaries possessed the needed qualifications and experience to carry out their duties (or used qualified advisors and service providers to fulfill their duties); had adequate financial resources and information; maintained adequate records of the information on which

1 they based their decisions and analysis with respect to the Plan's investments; and  
2 reported regularly to Defendant.

3 205. Defendants breached their fiduciary monitoring duties by, among  
4 other things:

5 (a) failing to monitor and evaluate the performance of other Plan fiduciaries  
6 or have a system in place for doing so, standing idly by as the Plan suffered  
7 losses as a result of other Plan fiduciaries' election to continue to pay fees  
8 that were significantly higher than what the Plan could have paid for  
9 substantially identical investment products readily available elsewhere, as  
10 detailed herein;

11 (b) failing to monitor the processes by which the Plan's investments were  
12 evaluated, which would have alerted a prudent fiduciary to the excessive  
13 costs being incurred in the Plan to the substantial detriment of the Plan and  
14 the Plan's participants' retirement savings, including Plaintiff and members  
15 of the Class; and

16 (c) failing to remove fiduciaries whose performance was inadequate, as they  
17 continued to maintain expensive and poorly performing investments in the  
18 Plan, all to the detriment of the Plan and Plan participants' retirement  
19 savings;

20 (d) failing to institute competitive bidding for service providers.

21 206. As a direct and proximate result of these breaches of the duty to  
22 monitor the Plan, Plaintiff and members of the Class suffered millions of dollars of  
23 losses. Had Defendant complied with its fiduciary obligations, the Plan would not  
24 have suffered these losses, and Plan participants would have had more money  
25 available to them for their retirement.

26 207. Pursuant to ERISA § 502(a)(2) and (a)(3), and ERISA § 409(a), 29  
27 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2) and (a)(3), and 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a), Defendant is liable to  
28 disgorge all fees received from the Plan, directly or indirectly, and profits thereon,



1 and restore all losses suffered by the Plan caused by its breach of the duty to monitor,  
2 and such other appropriate equitable relief as the Court deems proper.

3 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

4 Plaintiff, on behalf of the Plan and all similarly situated Plan participants and  
5 beneficiaries, respectfully requests the Court:

- 6 • Certify the Class, appoint Plaintiff as class representative, and appoint  
7 Christina Humphrey Law, P.C. and Bradley/Grombacher, LLP as  
8 Class Counsel;
  - 9 • Find and declare that Defendants have breached their fiduciary duties  
10 as described above;
  - 11 • Find and adjudge that Defendants are liable to make good to the Plan  
12 all losses to the Plan resulting from each breach of their fiduciary  
13 duties, and to otherwise restore the Plan to the position it would have  
14 occupied but for the breaches of their fiduciary duties;
  - 15 • Determine the method by which Plan losses under 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a)  
16 should be calculated;
  - 17 • Order Defendants to provide an accounting necessary to determine the  
18 amounts Defendants must make good the Plan under § 1109(a);
  - 19 • Impose a constructive trust on any monies by which Defendants were  
20 unjustly enriched as a result of breaches of fiduciary duty or prohibited  
21 transactions, and cause Defendants to disgorge such monies and return  
22 them to the Plan;
  - 23 • Award monetary damages;
  - 24 • Surcharge against Defendants and in favor of the Plan all amounts  
25 involved in any transactions which an accounting reveals were  
26 improper, excessive, and/or in violation of ERISA;
  - 27 • Order equitable restitution against Defendants;
- 28

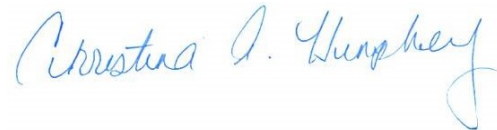
- Award to Plaintiff and the Class their attorney's fees and costs under 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(1) and the common fund doctrine;
- Order the payment of interest to the extent it is allowed by law; and
- Grant other equitable or remedial relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY OF ALL ISSUES SO TRIABLE  
BY LAW.**

Dated: June 2, 2023

**CHRISTINA HUMPHREY LAW, P.C.  
BRADLEY/GROMBACHER, LLP**

By:



CHRISTINA A. HUMPHREY  
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MARCUS J. BRADLEY  
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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
and the Putative Class*