

1 Mark P. Kindall, Cal. Bar No. 138703
2 mkindall@ikrlaw.com

3 Robert A. IZARD, *pro hac vice* to be filed
4 rizard@ikrlaw.com
5 IZARD KINDALL & RAABE LLP
6 29 South Main Street, Suite 305
7 West Hartford, CT 06107
8 Telephone: (860) 493-6292

9 Gregory Y. Porter, *pro hac vice* to be filed
10 gporter@baileyglasser.com

11 Mark G. Boyko, *pro hac vice* to be filed
12 mboyko@baileyglasser.com
13 Bailey & Glasser LLP
14 1054 31st Street, NW Suite230
15 Washington, DC 20007
16 Telephone: (202) 463-2101

17 Joseph A. Creitz, Cal. Bar No. 169552
18 joe@creitzserebin.com

19 Lisa S. Serebin, Cal Bar No. 146312
20 lisa@creitzserebin.com
21 CREITZ & SEREBIN LLP
22 100 Pine Street, Suite 1250
23 San Francisco, CA 94111
24 Telephone: (415) 466-3090

25 *Attorneys for the Plaintiffs*

26 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
27 **FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

28 NELLY F. FERNANDEZ, individually and)
on behalf of a class of all other persons)
similarly situated, and on behalf of the)
Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

FRANKLIN RESOURCES, INC., Franklin)

Case Number:

1 Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan)
Investment Committee, Norman Frisbie,)
2 Jennifer Johnson, Penelope Alexander,)
3 Kenneth Lewis, Dan Carr, Nicole)
Smith, Alison Baur, Matthew Gulley,)
4 The Franklin Resources, Inc. Board of)
Directors, Gregory E. Johnson, Rupert H.)
5 Johnson, Jr., Charles B. Johnson, Charles)
6 E. Johnson, Peter K. Barker, Mariann)
Byerwalter, Mark C. Pigott, Chutta)
7 Ratnathicam, Laura Stein, Seth Waugh,)
8 Geoffrey Y. Yang, Samuel Armacost,)
Joseph Hardiman, Laura Stein, Anne Tatlock,)
9 And John Doe Defendants 1–10.)
)

10 Defendants.

11 **COMPLAINT**

12 1. Plaintiff Nelly F. Fernandez, individually and as representative of a class
13 of similarly situated persons, (“Plaintiffs”) brings this action pursuant to 29 U.S.C.
14 §1132(a)(2) and (3) on behalf of the Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan (the
15 “Plan”) against Defendants Franklin Resources, Inc. (hereinafter “Franklin
16 Templeton”), Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan Investment Committee
17 (“Investment Committee”), and individual Investment Committee Members Norman
18 Frisbie, Jennifer Johnson, Penelope Alexander, Kenneth Lewis, Dan Carr, Nicole
19 Smith, Alison Baur, and Matthew Gulley, the Franklin Resources, Inc. Board of
20 Directors, responsible for monitoring the Investment Committee and appointing and
21 removing its members, and members of the Board of Directs, Defendants Gregory E.
22 Johnson, Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., Charles B. Johnson, Charles E. Johnson, Peter K.
23 Barker, Mariann Byerwalter, Mark C. Pigott, Chutta Ratnathicam, Laura Stein, Seth
24 Waugh, Geoffrey Y. Yang, Samuel Armacost, Joseph Hardiman, Laura Stein, Anne
25 Tatlock, and John Doe Defendants 1–10 (collectively “Defendants”) for breach of
26 fiduciary duties and state the following as their cause of action.

1 2. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants breached their fiduciary duties by
2 causing the Plan to invest in funds offered and managed by Franklin Templeton
3 (“Franklin Funds”), when better-performing and lower-cost funds were available.
4 Plaintiff further alleges that Defendants were motivated to cause the Plan to invest in
5 Franklin Funds to benefit Franklin Templeton’s investment management business.
6 Plaintiff also alleges that Defendants offered the Plan inferior arrangements compared
7 to that offered to non-captive plans, and, in so doing, engaged in prohibited
8 transactions.

9 **I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 3. This court has exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action
11 under 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because it is an action under 29
12 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2) and (3).

13 4. This district is the proper venue for this action under 29 U.S.C. §
14 1132(e)(2) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because it is the district in which the subject plan
15 is administered, where at least one of the alleged breaches took place, and where at
16 least one defendant may be found.

17 **II. PARTIES**

18 **A. Plaintiff**

19 5. Plaintiff Nelly F. Fernandez is a citizen and resident of Coral Springs,
20 Florida and was a participant in the Plan from at least 2011 through 2016. During the
21 Class Period Plaintiff invested her Plan account in at least four Proprietary Mutual
22 Funds, the Mutual Global Discovery Fund, the Income Fund, the Templeton World
23 Fund, and the Mutual European Fund.

24 **B. Defendants**

25 6. The Investment Committee consists of at least five members appointed
26 by the Board of Directors of Franklin Templeton. It is responsible for, among other
27 things, analyzing the performance and fees of investment options under the Plan,
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1 selecting new investment options to be offered under the Plan, and monitoring and
2 removing or replacing investment options offered under the Plan. Accordingly, it had
3 the fiduciary duty to select, monitor, and remove the Plan's investment options at all
4 times relevant herein. During the Class Period, Norman Frisbie, Jennifer Johnson,
5 Penelope Alexander, Kenneth Lewis, Dan Carr, Nicole Smith, Alison Baur and
6 Matthew Gulley, served as members of the Investment Committee.

7 7. The Investment Committee is a fiduciary of the Plan under 29 U.S.C.
8 §1002(21) because it exercised discretionary authority or control respecting the
9 management of the Plan, exercised authority or control respecting management or
10 disposition of the Plan's assets, and/or had discretionary authority or responsibility
11 respecting the administration of the Plan.

12 8. The Members of the Investment Committee and any individual or entity
13 to whom the Committee delegated any of its fiduciary functions, the nature and extent
14 of which have not been disclosed to Plaintiffs, are fiduciaries of the Plan under 29
15 U.S.C. § 1002(21) because they exercised authority or control respecting
16 management of the Plan, exercised authority or control respecting management or
17 disposition of the Plan's assets, and/or had discretionary authority or discretionary
18 responsibility respecting the administration of the Plan.

19 9. Defendant Franklin Templeton is the Plan sponsor and a party in interest
20 to the Plan under 29 U.S.C. §1002(14). In certain situations, Franklin Templeton also
21 acts as the Plan Administrator. Franklin Templeton is a corporation organized under
22 the laws of the state of Delaware, with its corporate headquarters and principal place
23 of business in the city and county of San Mateo, California.

24 10. Upon information and belief, Franklin Templeton, acting through its
25 officers, directors, employees, or agents was a fiduciary to the Plan under 29 U.S.C. §
26 1002(21) because it exercised discretionary authority or control respecting
27 management of the Plan, exercised authority or control respecting management or
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1 disposition of the Plan’s assets, and/or had discretionary authority or responsibility
2 respecting the administration of the Plan.

3 11. Franklin Resources, Inc., acting by and/or through its Board of Directors
4 (the “Board of Directors”), is a fiduciary within the meaning of ERISA, and thus
5 subject to the fiduciary standard of care, because it appoints and removes the
6 members of the Investment Committee, as well as designating the Plan Administrator,
7 the named fiduciary for the Plan. The Board is also responsible for monitoring
8 Investment Committee’s exercise of its discretionary authority over the Plan.

9 12. During the relevant period, the Board of Directors consists or has
10 consisted of Defendants Gregory E. Johnson, Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., Charles B.
11 Johnson, Charles E. Johnson, Peter K. Barker, Mariann Byerwalter, Mark C. Pigott,
12 Chutta Ratnathicam, Laura Stein, Seth Waugh, Geoffrey Y. Yang, Samuel Armacost,
13 Joseph Hardiman, Laura Stein, Anne Tatlock, and John Doe Defendants 1–10.

14 13. The Board of Directors may remove any member of the Committee at
15 any time with or without advance notice. Vacancies on the Committee are filled by
16 the Board of Directors.

17 14. Upon information and belief, Franklin Templeton has exercised control
18 over the activities of its employees, internal departments and subsidiaries that
19 performed fiduciary functions with respect to the Plan, and can hire or appoint,
20 terminate, and replace such employees at will. Franklin Templeton is therefore liable
21 for the fiduciary breaches alleged herein of its employees, internal departments and
22 subsidiaries.

23 15. Franklin Templeton cannot act on its own. In this regard, on information
24 and belief, Franklin Templeton relied directly on the other Defendants to carry out its
25 fiduciary responsibilities under the Plan and ERISA and the acts of its officers and
26 employees alleged herein are the acts of Franklin Templeton.

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1 **III. THE PLAN**

2 16. The Plan is sponsored by Franklin Resources, Inc. It was established on
3 October 1, 1981 and amended on October 1, 2010.

4 17. The Plan is an “employee pension benefit plan” within the meaning of
5 29 U.S.C. §1002(2).

6 18. The Plan is an “individual account plan” or “defined contribution plan”
7 within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1002(34).

8 19. The Plan purports to be a “401(k) Plan” under 26 U.S.C. §401.

9 20. The Plan covers substantially all employees of Franklin Templeton and
10 its U.S. subsidiaries who meet certain employment requirements.

11 **IV. THE PLAN’S INVESTMENTS**

12 21. Defendants’ fiduciary duties are among the “highest [duties] known to
13 the law.” *Donovan v. Bierwirth*, 680 F.2d 263, 272 (2d Cir. 1982). Consistent with
14 these fiduciary duties, Defendants had a fiduciary duty to Plaintiff, the Plan, and the
15 other participants in the Plan to offer only prudent investment options. A fiduciary
16 has “a continuing duty of some kind to monitor investments and remove imprudent
17 ones” and “a plaintiff may allege that a fiduciary breached the duty of prudence by
18 failing to properly monitor investments and remove imprudent ones.” *Tibble v.*
19 *Edison Int’l.*, 135 S.Ct. 1823, 1829 (2015). Defendants therefore breached their
20 fiduciary duty of prudence under ERISA §404(a)(1)(B); 29 U.S.C. §1104(a)(1)(B).

21 **A. The Proprietary Mutual Funds**

22 22. There is no shortage of reasonably priced and well-managed investment
23 options in the 401(k) plan marketplace.

24 23. Despite the many investment options available in the market, the Plan
25 has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in mutual funds managed by Franklin
26 Templeton and its subsidiaries. These investment options were chosen because they
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1 were managed by, paid fees to, and generated profits for Franklin Templeton and its
2 subsidiaries.

3 24. Over the relevant time period, over forty mutual funds offered by the
4 Plan were, and continue to be, managed by Franklin Templeton or its subsidiaries (the
5 “Proprietary Funds”). The Plan also includes a Company Stock Fund, which invests
6 in common stock of Franklin Templeton, and a collective trust, managed by State
7 Street Global Advisors, which is intended to track domestic large-capitalization
8 stocks as represented in the S&P 500 Index. In 2015, the Plan also added three other
9 collective trusts, also managed by State Street Global Advisors, to offer index
10 tracking for international stocks, domestic small and mid-capitalization stocks, and
11 bonds. Prior to 2015, the S&P 500 Index Fund was the only passively managed, and
12 only non-proprietary, option in the Plan.

13 25. The Plan’s investments were chosen and retained by or at the direction
14 of the Investment Committee.

15 26. The Plan’s investment in the Proprietary Funds averaged over \$750
16 million per year from 2011 to the present.

17 27. The Proprietary Funds generated millions of dollars in fees for Franklin
18 Templeton and its subsidiaries.

19 28. At all times relevant herein, the Proprietary Funds charged and continue
20 to charge Plan participants and beneficiaries fees that were and are unreasonable for
21 this Plan. The fees charged were and are significantly higher than the median fees for
22 comparable mutual funds in 401(k) plans as reported by the Investment Company
23 Institutes, in *The Economics of Providing 401(k) Plans: Services, Fees and Expenses*
24 and by BrightScope, Inc. an independent provider of 401(k) ratings and data, based
25 on its review of 1,667 large 401(k) plans reported in *Real Facts about Target Date*
26 *Funds*.

29. The fees, moreover, are and were significantly higher than the fees available from alternative mutual funds, including Vanguard Institutional Funds, with similar investment styles that were readily available as Plan investment options throughout the relevant time. The percentage of excess compared to the fees charged by comparable Vanguard Institutional Funds is shown in Column D below. That difference was even larger at the time most of these investments were selected, as current — and cheaper — R6 share classes of the Proprietary Funds were not offered in the Plan prior to 2014. Fees are measured in basis points (“bps”) where one basis point equals 0.01%:

Fund	R6 Fee	Vanguard Fund	Vanguard Fee	Excess over Vanguard
Money Fund	47 bps	VMRXX	10 bps	370%
Balance Sheet Inv. Fund	50 bps	VMVAX	8 bps	525%
Flex Cap Growth Fund	48 bps	VIGIX	7 bps	586%
Growth Fund	46 bps	VIGIX	7 bps	557%
Growth Opportunities Fund	68 bps	VIGIX	7 bps	871%
High Income Fund	47 bps	VWEAX	13 bps	261%
Income Fund	38 bps	VTWIX	13 bps	192%
International Growth Fund	102 bps	VWILX	34 bps	200%
Large Cap Value Fund	84 bps	VIVIX	7 bps	1,100%
LifeSmart Income Fund	68 bps	VTINX	14 bps	386%
LifeSmart 2020 Fund	72 bps	VTWNX	14 bps	413%
LifeSmart 2025 Fund	73 bps	VTTVX	15 bps	387%

1	LifeSmart 2030 Fund	75 bps	VTHRX	15 bps	400%
2	LifeSmart 2035 Fund	74 bps	VTTHX	15 bps	393%
3	LifeSmart 2040 Fund	76 bps	VFORX	16 bps	375%
4	LifeSmart 2045 Fund	75 bps	VTIVX	16 bps	369%
5	LifeSmart 2050 Fund	75 bps	VFIFX	16 bps	369%
6	Low Duration Total Return	42 bps	VSTBX	7 bps	500%
7	MicroCap Value Fund	80 bps	VSIIX	7 bps	1,043%
8	Mutual Beacon Fund	70 bps	VIVIX	7 bps	900%
9	Mutual European	89 bps	VESIX	9 bps	889%
10	Mutual Global Discovery	82 bps	VFWSX	11 bps	645%
11	Real Return Fund	50 bps	VIPIX	7 bps	614%
12	Rising Dividend Fund	52 bps	VDADX	9 bps	478%
13	Small Cap Growth Fund	72 bps	VSGIX	7 bps	929%
14	Small Cap Value Fund	61 bps	VSIIX	7 bps	771%
15	Small-Mid Cap Growth	48 bps	VIEIX	7 bps	586%
16	Strategic Income	47 bps	VCOBX	15 bps	213%
17	Conservative Allocation	92 bps	VASIX	12 bps	667%
18	Growth Allocation	82 bps	VASGX	15 bps	447%
19	Moderate Allocation	94 bps	VSMGX	14 bps	571%
20	Total Return Fund	46 bps	VBIMX	6 bps	667%
21	U.S. Gov. Securities Fund	47 bps	VFIUX	10 bps	370%
22	Templeton Developing Mkts	122 bps	VEMIX	12 bps	917%
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					

1	Templeton Foreign Fund	72 bps	VTRIX	46 bps	57%
2					
3	Templeton Frontier Markets	165 bps	VEMIX	12 bps	1,275%
4					
5	Templeton Global Bond Fund	50 bps	VTIFX	9 bps	456%
6					
7	Templeton Global Smaller Co	94 bps	VTWIX	13 bps	623%
8					
9	Templeton Growth Fund	70 bps	VTWIX	13 bps	438%
10					
11	Templeton World Fund	72 bps	VTWIX	13 bps	454%

12 30. Prior to July 1, 2014, the Plan invested in the Advisor share class of
13 each Proprietary Fund.

14 31. During the period the Plan invested in the Advisor share class of the
15 Proprietary Funds, the Proprietary Funds' Transfer Agent, Franklin Templeton
16 Investor Services, LLC, paid Charles Schwab, the Plan's Recordkeeper and Trustee,
17 \$1 per plan participant account per month. Franklin Templeton Investor Services,
18 LLC collected those fees from the Franklin mutual funds, reducing the value of the
19 mutual funds for all shareholders. In 2013, those Plan-related payments totaled
20 approximately \$400,000.

21 32. Plaintiff was, until 2017, not aware of these existence, let alone the
22 extent, of these payments.

23 33. The Plan was, at that time, liable to Schwab for \$70 per participant per
24 year in administrative fees. If the payments to Charles Schwab from the Plan's
25 mutual funds were less than the \$70 per participant per year rate, the Plan was liable
26 to Charles Schwab for the difference.

1 34. Likewise, if the payments to Charles Schwab from the Plan's mutual
2 funds exceeded the \$70 per participant per year rate, the overage would be used to
3 pay other plan expenses.

4 35. During the Class Period, because Franklin offered the Plan lower
5 shareholder service fees, the Plan both had to pay additional administrative fees to the
6 Plan's recordkeeper and lost the opportunity to benefit from the reimbursement of
7 fees to the Plan for other purposes.

8 36. At the same time, for other shareholders of the same Advisor share class
9 of the Proprietary Funds, Franklin offers a 15 bp beneficial owner servicing credit,
10 which was also paid by Franklin Templeton Investors Services, LLC using fees
11 collected from the Franklin mutual funds and reducing the value of the mutual funds
12 for all shareholders, including the Plan. The 15 bp beneficial owner servicing credit
13 was offered to Franklin-fund shareholders such as the Mercury General Corporation
14 Profit Sharing Plan, but was not available to the Plan.

15 37. Upon information and belief, other shareholders in the Advisor share
16 class benefitted from the additional 15 bps through payments to their advisors,
17 including Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC, the funds' distributor, Franklin
18 Templeton Distributors, Inc., or entities who had entered into selling agreements with
19 Franklin Templeton Distributors, Inc.

20 38. Had Franklin made 15 bps available for the benefit of the Plan, as it did
21 with other shareholders, the Plan and Charles Schwab would have received beneficial
22 owners servicing credits of approximately \$1.1 million per year, an increase of
23 \$700,000 per year from the benefit offered by Franklin for its own Plan.

24 39. Conversely, had Franklin offered all shareholder the same arrangement
25 as it had with Charles Schwab for the Plan, the amount of the payments made from
26 each fund would have been less, causing the value of the Plan's investments in the
27 Franklin Funds to be higher.

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1 40. Plaintiff did not know of the Plan fee offsets, the beneficial owner
2 servicing credits, the \$1 per plan participant account per month arrangement between
3 Franklin and Schwab, or the 15 bps payments to other Plans until after the institution
4 of this Action.

5 41. Additionally, each Proprietary Fund charges fees in excess of the fees
6 the Plan would have paid by purchasing comparable institutional products such as
7 separately managed accounts. As the Department of Labor reports, for plans like
8 Franklin Templeton's Plan, the "[t]otal investment management expenses can
9 commonly be reduced to one-fourth of the expenses incurred through retail mutual
10 funds." *Study of 401(k) Plan Fees and Expenses*, April 13, 1998.

11 42. Franklin offers and sells investment products similar or identical to those
12 in the Plan to institutional clients through separately=managed accounts and sub-
13 advised portfolios.

14 43. For example, the Plan invested over \$30 million in the Templeton Global
15 Bond Fund, which charged a fee of over 50 basis points. However, Defendants
16 offered a Templeton Global Bond Fund separately managed account to institutional
17 investors with at least \$500,000, for negotiated fees which, upon information and
18 belief, were often less than the fees charged to investors in the Templeton Global
19 Bond Fund mutual fund.

20 44. With an operating margin of over 37%, very high for the mutual fund
21 industry, Defendants made a fortune off of the Plan's investments in Proprietary
22 Funds.

23 45. Many of the Proprietary Funds had and continue to have poor
24 performance histories compared to prudent alternatives Defendants could have
25 chosen for inclusion in the Plan.

26 46. For example, from the beginning of the relevant time period until at least
27 September, 2013, the Plan included three Asset Allocation Funds, the Conservative
28

1 Allocation Fund, Moderate Allocation Fund, and Growth Allocation Fund, which
2 were all Proprietary Funds managed by T. Anthony Coffey and Thomas A. Nelson of
3 Franklin Templeton.

4 47. The Asset Allocation Funds had been performing poorly. All three
5 trailed their Morningstar peer median returns in 2011 and 2012, with only the
6 Conservative Allocation Fund beating its peers in 2013 — after finishing in the 90th
7 and 76th percentiles the prior two years.

8 48. In July, 2013, Franklin Templeton created a series of target date funds.
9 Both asset allocation funds and target date funds are similar in that both invest their
10 assets in a collection of mutual funds which in turn invest in foreign and domestic
11 stocks and bonds, providing asset allocation within a single fund. Messrs. Coffey and
12 Nelson, the unsuccessful managers of the Allocation Funds, were also the managers
13 of these new, untested funds.

14 49. Defendants decided to replace the Allocation Funds with Target Date
15 Funds shortly before or during 2014. At the time, there was no shortage of
16 established, cheaper target date fund families in the marketplace. Instead of selecting
17 one of these cheaper, better funds, Defendants chose for the Plan the untested,
18 expensive Proprietary Target Date Funds, despite the poor performance of its
19 managers managing similar Asset Allocation Funds. A prudent, un-conflicted
20 fiduciary would not have chosen untested, more expensive funds, particularly in light
21 of the individual manager's inability to succeed managing similar funds in the recent
22 past.

23 50. The Target Date Funds have subsequently underperformed the cheaper,
24 established, prudent alternative funds which, upon information and belief, were not
25 even considered by Defendants when they decided to invest Plan assets in the Target
26 Date Funds. The most conservative Target Date Fund, the Retirement Income Fund,
27 has performed worse than two-thirds of its Morningstar peers each and every year of
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1 its existence. The most aggressive, the 2055 Fund, underperformed 97% of its peers
2 in 2016, the only full year of its existence, and continues to underperform its
3 Morningstar peer category thus far in 2017. Except for the Retirement Income Fund,
4 which finished in the bottom third, all of the proprietary Target Date Funds in the
5 Plan finished 2016 in the bottom 10 percent of their peer groups. Since their inception
6 in July, 2013, the Target Date Funds have underperformed their Vanguard peers by
7 over \$3 million.

8 51. The Target Date Funds' underperformance is not unique. In 2015, only
9 24% of Franklin Templeton mutual funds outperformed their peer median.

10 52. Many of the Proprietary Funds were and are poorly rated by
11 Morningstar, the independent rating service, compared to prudent alternatives the
12 Committee could have chosen for inclusion in the Plan. For example, not a single
13 Proprietary Fund is rated 5-stars (out of 5), the highest rating, by Morningstar. To the
14 contrary, the Templeton World Fund and Templeton Frontier Markets Fund, are rated
15 1-star, the lowest rating. Other Proprietary Funds have 2-star ratings and most of the
16 rest have mediocre 3-star ratings.

17 53. Prudent investors fled Franklin Templeton's mutual funds, including the
18 Proprietary Funds. In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, investors on net
19 withdrew \$59.2 billion from Franklin Templeton funds. The following quarter, they
20 withdrew an additional \$20.6 billion. In 2016, investors withdrew another \$42.5
21 billion. In 2017, the outflows have continued, with investors withdrawing an
22 additional \$18.3 billion during the first half of the year.

23 54. Despite the poor performance, high fees, and low Morningstar ratings,
24 the only Proprietary Funds removed from the Plan during the entire Class Period were
25 replaced with other Proprietary Funds. For example, the three Asset Allocation Funds
26 were replaced, as discussed above, with eight proprietary Target Date Funds using the
27 same failed managers as the Asset Allocation Funds. In addition, in 2016 five
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1 Proprietary Funds were removed and their assets transferred to other Franklin Funds,
 2 with the result being over \$100,000 per year in *additional fees* to Franklin at the
 3 expense of the Plan and its participants.
 4

5 Removed Fund	6 Removed Fund Fee	7 Replacement Fund	8 Replacement Fund Fee	9 Assets in Removed Fund	10 Additional Fees to Franklin
11 US Gov. Securities Fund	47 bps	Total Return Fund	46 bps	\$18,777,486	-\$1,878
12 Balanced Sheet Fund	50 bps	Rising Dividend Fund	52 bps	\$6,805,384	\$1,361
13 Flex Cap Growth Fund	46 bps	Growth Opportunities Fund	68 bps	\$13,992,198	\$30,783
14 Small Mid Cap Growth Fund	48 bps	Small Cap Growth	66 bps	\$38,729,155	\$69,712
15 High Income Fund	47 bps	Strategic Income Fund	48 bps	\$9,586,381	\$959

16
 17
 18 55. Meanwhile, four Proprietary Funds, as well as the Target Date Funds,
 19 were added to the Plan during the Class Period. They are the International Growth
 20 Fund, for which Franklin Templeton charges 102 bps, the Templeton Frontier
 21 Markets Fund, for which Franklin Templeton charges 165 bps, and the Real Return
 22 Fund, for which Franklin Templeton charges 50 bps, and the Templeton Foreign
 23 Equity Fund, for which Franklin Templeton charges 72 bps.

24 56. The Plan lost in excess of \$60 million during the class period as a result
 25 of losses sustained by the Proprietary Funds compared to prudent alternatives such as
 26 comparable Vanguard Funds.
 27
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1 **B. The Franklin Money Market Fund**

2 57. Stable value funds and money market funds are two investment vehicles
3 designed to preserve principal while providing a return.

4 58. Stable value funds are a common investment in defined contribution
5 plans and in fact are designed specifically for use in large defined contribution plans.

6 59. The structure of stable value funds allows them to outperform money
7 market funds in virtually all market conditions and over any appreciable time period.
8 See, *Abbott v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, 725 F.3d 803, 806 (7th Cir. 2013); see also
9 Paul J. Donahue, *Plan Sponsor Fiduciary Duty for the Selection of Options in*
10 *Participant-Directed Defined Contribution Plans and the Choice Between Stable*
11 *Value and Money Market*, 39 AKRON L. REV. 9, 20–27 (2006).

12 60. Stable Value Funds hold longer duration instruments generating excess
13 returns over money market investments. Stable value funds also provide a guaranteed
14 rate of return to the investor, referred to as a crediting rate, and protect against the
15 loss of principal and accrued interest. This protection is provided through a wrap
16 contract issued by a bank, insurance company or other financial institution that
17 guarantees the book value of the participant’s investment.

18 61. Even during the period of market turbulence in 2008, “stable value
19 participants received point-to-point protection of principal, with no sacrifice of
20 return[.]” Paul J. Donahue, *Stable Value Re-examined*, 54 RISKS AND REWARDS 26,
21 28 (Aug. 2009).¹

22 62. Because they offer higher returns than money market funds, greater
23 consistency of returns, and less risk to principal, large defined contribution plans
24 commonly offer stable value funds to participants.

25 63. A 2011 study from Wharton Business School analyzed money market
26 and stable value fund returns from the previous two decades and concluded that “any

27 _____
28 ¹ Available at <http://www.soa.org/library/newsletters/risks-and-rewards/2009/august/rar-2009-iss54-donahue.pdf>.

1 investor who preferred more wealth to less wealth should have avoided investing in
2 money market funds when [stable value] funds were available, irrespective of risk
3 preferences.” David F. Babbel & Miguel A. Herce, *Stable Value Funds: Performance*
4 *to Date*, at 16 (Jan. 1, 2011).²

5 64. According to the 2015 Stable Value Study published by MetLife, over
6 80% of plan sponsors offer a stable value fund. MetLife, *2015 Stable Value Study: A*
7 *Survey of Plan Sponsors, Stable Value Fund Providers and Advisors* at 5 (2015).³
8 The study also notes that stable value returns were “*more than double*” the returns of
9 money market funds from 1988 to 2015, and 100% of stable value providers and
10 almost 90% of financial advisors to defined contribution plans “agree that stable
11 value returns have outperformed money market returns over the last 25 years.” *Id.* at
12 7 (emphasis added).

13 65. Unlike the majority of defined contribution plans, the Plan has not
14 offered a stable value fund. Instead, the Plan offered the Franklin Funds Money
15 Market Fund, a fund managed by Franklin and paying Franklin up to 47 bps per year,
16 while paying nothing at all to the Plan and its participants.

17 66. In real terms, investors in this most-conservative option have lost over
18 12% of their buying power over the Class Period. Had Defendants used a comparable
19 stable value fund, the plan participants would have seen their assets grow by over
20 22% during that period. These losses could also have been mitigated had Defendants
21 considered any of the numerous superior non-proprietary money market funds
22 available in the marketplace throughout the class period.

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24
25 _____
26 ² Available at <http://fic.wharton.upenn.edu/fic/papers/11/11-01.pdf> (last accessed
27 June 24, 2016).

28 ³ Available at https://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/institutional-retirement/plan-sponsor/stable-value/Stable-Value-Vs-Money-Market/2015_StableValueStudyWebFinal.pdf.

1 67. Had these assets been invested in a stable value fund instead, they would
2 have had inflation-beating returns. For example, one alternative, the Vanguard Stable
3 Value Fund has enjoyed the following returns:

Fund	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Stable Value	3.66%	4.06%	3.56%	2.68%	2.06%	2.00%	2.21%	2.22%
Inflation Plan	2.63%	1.63%	2.93%	1.59%	1.58%	-0.09%	1.37%	2.07%
Money Market	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

10 68. Franklin does not manage any stable value funds.

11 69. In addition to the breaches of loyalty resulting from the selection and
12 maintenance of the Money Market Fund, by including and failing to remove the
13 Money Market Fund, Defendants failed to discharge their duties with respect to the
14 Plan with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then
15 prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters
16 would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims.

17 70. The Plan lost in excess of \$9 million during the class period as a result of
18 losses sustained by the Money Market Fund compared to Stable Value alternatives.

19 **C. Excessive Total Plan Cost**

20 71. In addition to paying the bloated expense ratios charged by Franklin
21 Templeton on the Proprietary Funds, the Plan pays a separate administrative fee,
22 charged to each participant at a rate of \$12.00 per quarter, or \$48 per year. Additional
23 charges are also incurred for services provided to the Plan by other vendors.

24 72. The Plans' Form 5500 filings with the U.S. Department of Labor contain
25 an Independent Auditor's Report, which state that on September 30, 2014 the Plan's
26 assets were \$1,178,463,741 and on September 30, 2015, the Plan's assets were
27 \$1,095,737,878. The Plan has remained above \$1 billion in assets ever since.
28

1 73. In total, the Plan paid \$6.5 million per year in investment management
2 and administrative fees. Given the Plan size, the average Total Plan Cost was over 57
3 bps in 2014 and 2015.

4 74. A recently published report shows that in 2013, the average 401(k)
5 defined contribution plan with more than a billion dollars in assets bore a total plan
6 cost as a percentage of assets of 31 basis points. See BrightScope and Investment
7 Company Institute, The BrightScope/ICI Defined Contribution Plan Profile: A Close
8 Look at 401(k) Plans, 47 (Dec. 2015), available at:
9 https://www.ici.org/pdf/ppr_15_dcplan_profile_401k.pdf. In 2014, that dropped to 30
10 basis points. See BrightScope and Investment Company Institute, The
11 BrightScope/ICI Defined Contribution Plan Profile: A Close Look at 401(k) Plans, 49
12 (Dec. 2016), available at: https://www.ici.org/pdf/ppr_16_dcplan_profile_401k.pdf.

13 75. Thus, the total plan cost, including investment and administrative fees,
14 was nearly double the cost of comparable plans that are not subject to conflicted
15 fiduciary decision-making. This difference is almost entirely the result of the mutual
16 fund fees paid to Franklin Templeton.

17 76. In the six-year period 2011–2016, the Plan paid approximately \$15
18 million more at the 57 basis points fee rate than did a plan at the 31 (or 30) basis
19 points fee rate.

20 77. These facts support an inference that Defendants allowed Franklin
21 Templeton to receive excessive compensation by larding the Plan with excessively
22 expensive Proprietary Funds.

23 **D. Individual Defendants' Conflicts of Interest**

24 78. The Individual Defendants suffered from direct, personal, and pecuniary
25 conflicts when serving as fiduciaries for the Plan.

26 79. Director Defendants and brothers Charles B. Johnson and Rupert H.
27 Johnson, Jr. each own and owned over 100 million shares of Franklin Resources, Inc.,
28

1 holdings which were, for much of the class period, valued at over \$3 billion and 15%
2 of the company, each.

3 80. Charles B. Johnson and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. are the sons of Rupert H.
4 Johnson, Sr., who founded Franklin Resources in 1947.

5 81. Director Defendants and brothers Charles E. Johnson and Gregory E.
6 Johnson each own over 5 million shares of Franklin Resources, Inc., holdings which
7 were, for much of the class period, valued at over \$150 million each. Charles E.
8 Johnson and Gregory E. Johnson are the sons of Charles B. Johnson.

9 82. Investment Committee member, and sister of Gregory E. Johnson,
10 Jennifer M. Johnson, owns over 4 million shares of Franklin Resources, Inc., holdings
11 which were, for much of the class period, valued at over \$130 million each. Ms.
12 Johnson is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Franklin Resources, Inc. She
13 is also responsible for Franklin Templeton's global retail and institutional distribution
14 efforts, including product development.

15 83. In addition, the Committee included Ken Lewis, Franklin's Chief
16 Financial Officer, Dan Carr, Franklin's Secretary and General Counsel, and Rick
17 Frisbie, Franklin's former Chief Administrative Officer and Executive VP
18 responsible for overseeing the asset allocation and target date funds.

19 84. These individuals personally benefited from the Plan's investments in
20 Franklin Funds.

21 **V. ERISA'S FIDUCIARY STANDARDS**

22 85. ERISA imposes strict fiduciary duties of loyalty and prudence upon
23 Defendants as fiduciaries of the Plan. ERISA § 404(a), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a), provides,
24 in relevant part, as follows:

25 [A] fiduciary shall discharge his duties with respect to a plan solely in
26 the interest of the participants and beneficiaries and —

27 (A) for the exclusive purpose of:
28

- 1 (i) providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries;
2 and
3 (ii) defraying reasonable expenses of administering the plan;
4 [and]

5 (B) with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the
6 circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and
7 familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like
8 character and with like aims;

9 (C) by diversifying the investments of the plan so as to minimize the
10 risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to
11 do so[.]

12 86. Under ERISA, fiduciaries who exercise discretionary authority or control
13 over the selection of plan investments and the selection of plan service providers
14 must act prudently and solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries of the
15 plan when performing such functions. Thus, “the duty to conduct an independent
16 investigation into the merits of a particular investment” is “the most basic of
17 ERISA’s investment fiduciary duties.” *In re Unisys Savings Plan Litig.*, 74 F.3d 420,
18 435 (3d Cir. 1996).

19 87. As the Department of Labor explains,
20 [T]o act prudently, a plan fiduciary must consider,
21 among other factors, the availability, riskiness, and
22 potential return of alternative investments for his or her
23 plan. [Where an investment], if implemented, causes
24 the Plan to forego other investment opportunities, such
25 investments would not be prudent if they provided a
26 plan with less return, in comparison to risk, than
27 comparable investments available to the plan, or if
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they involved a greater risk to the security of plan assets than other investments offering a similar return.

DOL Opinion 88-16A (1988).

88. Pursuant to these duties, fiduciaries must ensure that the services provided to the plan are necessary and that the fees are reasonable:

Under section 404(a)(1) of ERISA, the responsible Plan fiduciaries must act prudently and solely in the interest of the Plan participants and beneficiaries ... in determining which investment options to utilize or make available to Plan participants or beneficiaries. In this regard, the responsible Plan fiduciaries must assure that the compensation paid directly or indirectly by the Plan to [service providers] is reasonable . . .

DOL Opinion 97-15A (1997); DOL Opinion 97-16A (1997).

89. A fiduciary's duty of loyalty requires a fiduciary to act solely in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. As the Department of Labor has warned:

[T]he Department has construed the requirements that a fiduciary act solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and beneficiaries, as prohibiting a fiduciary from subordinating the interests of participants and beneficiaries in their retirement income to unrelated

1 objectives. In other words, in deciding whether and to
2 what extent to invest in a particular investment, or to
3 make a particular fund available as a designated
4 investment alternative, a fiduciary must ordinarily
5 consider only factors relating to the interests of plan
6 participants and beneficiaries in their retirement
7 income. A decision to make an investment, or to
8 designate an investment alternative, may not be
9 influenced by non-economic factors unless the
10 investment ultimately chosen for the plan, when
11 judged solely on the basis of its economic value, would
12 be equal to or superior to alternative available
13 investments.

14
15 DOL Opinion 98-04A (1998); *see also* DOL Opinion 88-16A (1988). The
16 Department of Labor has repeatedly warned that:

17
18 While the law does not specify a permissible level of
19 fees, it does require that fees charged to a plan be
20 “reasonable.” After careful evaluation during the initial
21 selection, the plan’s fees and expenses should be
22 monitored to determine whether they continue to be
23 reasonable.

24
25 *Meeting Your Fiduciary Responsibilities*, U.S. Dep’t of Labor Employee
26 Benefits Security Admin. (Feb. 2012),
27 <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/fiduciaryresponsibility.html>.

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90. In a separate publication, the Department of Labor writes as follows:
The Federal law governing private-sector retirement plans, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), requires that those responsible for managing retirement plans -- referred to as fiduciaries -- carry out their responsibilities prudently and solely in the interest of the plan's participants and beneficiaries. Among other duties, fiduciaries have a responsibility to ensure that the services provided to their plan are necessary and that the cost of those services is reasonable.

* * *

Plan fees and expenses are important considerations for all types of retirement plans. As a plan fiduciary, you have an obligation under ERISA to prudently select and monitor plan investments, investment options made available to the plan's participants and beneficiaries, and the persons providing services to your plan. Understanding and evaluating plan fees and expenses associated with plan investments, investment options, and services are an important part of a fiduciary's responsibility. This responsibility is ongoing. After careful evaluation during the initial selection, you will want to monitor plan fees and

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expenses to determine whether they continue to be reasonable in light of the services provided.

* * *

By far the largest component of plan fees and expenses is associated with managing plan investments. Fees for investment management and other related services generally are assessed as a percentage of assets invested. Employers should pay attention to these fees. They are paid in the form of an indirect charge against the participant's account or the plan because they are deducted directly from investment returns. Net total return is the return after these fees have been deducted. For this reason, these fees, which are not specifically identified on statements of investments, may not be immediately apparent to employers.

Understanding Retirement Plan Fees and Expenses, U.S. Dep't of Labor Employee Benefits Security Admin. (Dec. 2011), <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/undrstndgrtrmnt.html>.

91. ERISA § 409, 29 U.S.C. § 1109, provides, inter alia, that any person who is a fiduciary with respect to a plan and who breaches any of the responsibilities, obligations, or duties imposed on fiduciaries by Title I ERISA shall be personally liable to make good to the plan any losses to the plan resulting from each such breach and to restore to the plan any profits the fiduciary made through use of the plan's assets. ERISA § 409, 29 U.S.C. § 1109, further provides that such fiduciaries are subject to such other equitable or remedial relief as a court may deem appropriate.

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VI. ERISA’S PROHIBITED TRANSACTION

92. The general duties of loyalty and prudence imposed by 29 U.S.C. §1004 are supplemented by a detailed list of transactions that are expressly prohibited by 29 U.S.C. §1106, and are considered violations unless an exemption applies.

93. Section 1106(a)(1) states, in pertinent part, that:

[A] fiduciary with respect to a plan shall not cause the plan to engage in a transaction, if he knows or should know that such transaction constitutes a direct or indirect —

(A) sale or exchange, or leasing, of any property between the plan and a party in interest;

* * *

(C) furnishing of goods, services, or facilities between the plan and a party in interest;

(D) transfer to, or use by or for the benefit of a party in interest, of any assets of the plan...

94. Section 1106(b) provides, in pertinent part, that:

[A] fiduciary with respect to the plan shall not —

(1) deal with the assets of the plan in his own interest or for his own account,

(2) in his individual or in any other capacity act in a transaction involving the plan on behalf of a party (or represent a party) whose interests are adverse to the interests of the plan or the interests of its participants or beneficiaries, or

(3) receive any consideration for his own personal account from any party dealing with such plan in

1 connection with a transaction involving the assets of
2 the plan.

3 95. Accordingly, Defendants, as plan fiduciaries, were and are prohibited
4 from causing the plan to engage in transactions with Franklin, including causing the
5 plan to invest assets in the investment management and other products offered by a
6 party in interest or plan fiduciary and the payment of investment management or other
7 fees in connection with such investments, unless an express exemption is available.

8 96. Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77-3 provides a limited
9 exemption for a mutual fund company to include proprietary mutual funds like those
10 in the Plan, however the exemption requires that the plan must not “have dealings with
11 the fund on terms any less favorable to the plan than such dealings are to other
12 shareholders.” 42 Fed. Reg. at 18735.

13 97. Because Franklin offered and made service fee credits to other
14 shareholders, such as the Mercury General Corporation Profit Sharing Plan, far in
15 excess of the credits offered actually paid to the Plan’s recordkeeper for the benefit of
16 the Plan, Franklin’s dealings with the Plan were on terms less favorable to the Plan
17 than its dealings with other shareholders, and PTE 77-3 does not apply.

18 98. 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(3) provides a cause of action against a party in
19 interest, such as Franklin, for participating in the breach of a fiduciary.

20 99. 29 U.S.C. § 1105(a) provides a cause of action against a fiduciary, such
21 as Defendants, for knowingly participating in a breach by another fiduciary and
22 knowingly failing to cure any breach.

23 **VII. CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

24 100. ERISA § 502(a)(2), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2), permits a plan fiduciary,
25 participant, beneficiary, or the Secretary of Labor to bring a suit individually on
26 behalf of the Plan to recover for the Plan the remedies provided under ERISA § 409,
27 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a).

28

1 101. In acting in this representative capacity and to enhance the due process
2 protections of unnamed participants and beneficiaries of the Plan, as an alternative to
3 direct individual actions on behalf of the Plan under 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2), Plaintiffs
4 seek to certify this action as a class action on behalf of the following class:

5 *All participants in the Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan from July*
6 *28, 2010 to the date of judgment. Excluded from the class are Defendants,*
7 *Defendants' beneficiaries, and Defendants' immediate families.*

8 102. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(1),
9 (b)(2), and/or (b)(3).

10 (a) The class satisfies the numerosity requirement of Rule 23(a) because it
11 is composed of over one thousand persons, in numerous locations. The number of
12 class members is so large that joinder of all its members is impracticable.

13 (b) The class satisfies the commonality requirement of Rule 23(a) because
14 there are questions of law and fact common to the Class and these questions have
15 common answers. Common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited
16 to: who are the fiduciaries liable for the remedies provided by ERISA § 409(a), 29
17 U.S.C. §1109(a); whether the fiduciaries of the Plan breached their fiduciary duties
18 to the Plan by causing the Plan to invest in excessively expensive funds and by
19 failing to prudently remove the funds from the Plan; whether the decision to include
20 and not to remove a fund was made solely in the interests of Plan participants and
21 beneficiaries; what are the losses to the Plan resulting from each breach of fiduciary
22 duty; and what are the profits of any breaching fiduciary that were made through the
23 use of Plan assets by the fiduciary.

24 (c) The class satisfies the typicality requirement of Rule 23(a) because
25 Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class because
26 Plaintiffs' claims, and the claims of all Class members, arise out of the same
27 conduct, policies and practices of Defendants as alleged herein, and all members of
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1 the Class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct. Plaintiff was and
2 remains an investor in the Plan for the entirety of the Class Period.

3 (d) The class satisfies the adequacy requirement of Rule 23(a). Plaintiff
4 will fairly and adequately represent the Class and have retained counsel experienced
5 and competent in the prosecution of ERISA class action litigation. Plaintiff has no
6 interests antagonistic to those of other members of the Class. Plaintiff is committed
7 to the vigorous prosecution of this action and anticipates no difficulty in the
8 management of this litigation as a class action.

9 (e) Class action status in this action is warranted under Rule 23(b)(1)(A)
10 because prosecution of separate actions by the members of the Class would create a
11 risk of establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants. Class action
12 status also warranted under Rule 23(b)(1)(B) because prosecution of separate actions
13 by the members of the Class would create a risk of adjudications with respect to
14 individual members of the Class that, as a practical matter, would be dispositive of
15 the interests of other members not parties to this action, or that would substantially
16 impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

17 (f) In the alternative, certification under Rule 23(b)(2) is warranted
18 because Defendants acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the
19 Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive, declaratory, or other appropriate
20 equitable relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

21 (g) In the alternative, certification under Rule 23(b)(3) is
22 appropriate because questions of law or fact common to members of the
23 Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and
24 class action treatment is superior to the other available methods for the fair
25 and efficient adjudication of this controversy.
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1 **VIII. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

2 **First Claim For Relief: Breach of Fiduciary Duty**

3 103. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth in the
4 foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

5 104. The Committee and its members are responsible for selecting,
6 monitoring, and removing investment options in the Plan.

7 105. The Board of Directors and its members are responsible for appointing,
8 monitoring, and removing members of the Committee.

9 106. Defendants caused the Plan to invest nearly a billion of dollars in
10 imprudent investment options, many of which were more expensive than prudent
11 alternatives, unlikely to outperform their benchmarks, and laden with excessive fees
12 which were paid to Franklin Templeton and its subsidiaries.

13 107. Defendants failed to remove the funds even though a prudent fiduciary
14 would have done so given the high fees, poor performance prospects, and availability
15 of lower-cost alternatives.

16 108. By the conduct and omissions described above, Defendants failed to
17 discharge their duties with respect to the Plan solely in the interest of the participants
18 and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants
19 and beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plan, in
20 violation of ERISA § 404(a)(1)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(A).

21 109. Defendants failed to discharge their duties with respect to the Plan with
22 the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a
23 prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the
24 conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims, in violation of ERISA §
25 404(a)(1)(B), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B).

26 110. As a direct and proximate result of these breaches of fiduciary duties, the
27 Plan and its participants have paid, directly and indirectly, substantial excess
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1 investment management and other fund-related fees during the Class Period, and
2 suffered lost-opportunity costs which continue to accrue, for which Defendants are
3 jointly and severally liable pursuant to ERISA § 409, 29 U.S.C. § 1109, and ERISA §
4 502(a)(2), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2).

5 **Second Claim For Relief: 29 U.S.C. § 1106(a) Prohibited Transactions**

6 111. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth in the
7 foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

8 112. This Court alleges prohibited transactions against all Defendants

9 113. Defendants caused the Plan to use Proprietary mutual funds as
10 investment options when they knew or should have known those transactions
11 constituted a direct or indirect furnishing of services between the Plan and a party in
12 interest for more than reasonable compensation and a transfer of assets of the Plan to
13 a party in interest.

14 114. As Plan Sponsor, Franklin and its subsidiaries were parties in interest.

15 115. As a direct and proximate result of these prohibited transaction
16 violations, the Plan, directly or indirectly, paid millions of dollars in investment
17 management and other fees that were prohibited by ERISA and suffered millions of
18 dollars in losses.

19 116. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2), Defendants are liable
20 to restore all losses suffered by the Plan as a result of the prohibited transactions and
21 disgorge all revenues received and/or earned by Franklin from the fees paid by the
22 Plan to Franklin and its subsidiaries and affiliates as well as appropriate equitable
23 relief.

24 **Third Claim For Relief: 29 U.S.C. § 1106(b) Prohibited Transactions**

25 117. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth in the
26 foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

27 118. This Court alleges prohibited transactions against all Defendants.
28

1 119. Defendants dealt with the assets of the plan in their own interest and for
2 their own account when they caused the Plan to use Proprietary mutual funds as
3 investment options.

4 120. In causing the Plan to use Proprietary mutual funds, Defendants acted in
5 a transaction involving the plan on behalf of Franklin, a party whose interests were
6 adverse to the interests of the plan, its participants and beneficiaries.

7 121. Further, Franklin received consideration for its own personal account
8 from the Proprietary mutual funds in connection with their inclusion in the Plan.

9 122. For the reasons stated above, Defendants are fiduciaries and parties in
10 interest with respect to the Plan.

11 123. Defendants knew or should have known that the transfer of Plan assets to
12 the investment options selected and maintained in the Plan by Defendants allowed
13 Franklin to benefit both financially, through fees paid by the options to Franklin, and
14 commercially, by increasing the assets under management for the Franklin-managed
15 investment options.

16 124. As a direct result of these prohibited transactions, the Plan, directly or
17 indirectly, paid millions of dollars in investment management and other fees that were
18 prohibited by ERISA and suffered millions of dollars in losses.

19 125. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1109(a) and 1132(a)(2), Defendants are liable to
20 restore all losses suffered by the Plan as a result of the prohibited transactions and
21 disgorge all revenues received by Franklin from the fees paid by the Plan to Franklin,
22 as well as other appropriate equitable relief.

23 **Fourth Claim For Relief: Failure to Monitor Fiduciaries**

24 126. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth in the
25 foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

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1 127. This Count alleges breach of fiduciary duties against the Board of
2 Directors and its members, and Franklin Resources, Inc. (collectively the “Monitoring
3 Defendants”).

4 128. As alleged above, the Monitoring Defendants are fiduciaries pursuant to
5 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21). Thus, they are bound by the duties of loyalty, exclusive
6 purpose, and prudence.

7 129. As alleged above, the scope of the fiduciary responsibility of the
8 Monitoring Defendants includes the responsibility to appoint, and remove, and thus,
9 monitor the performance of other fiduciaries.

10 130. A monitoring fiduciary must ensure that the monitored fiduciaries are
11 performing their fiduciary obligations, including those with respect to the investment
12 and holding of plan assets, and must take prompt and effective action to protect the
13 plan and plan participants when they are not.

14 131. The Monitoring Fiduciaries breached their fiduciary monitoring duties
15 by, among other things:

16 a. Failing to monitor their appointees, to evaluate their performance, or to
17 have a system in place for doing so, and standing idly by as the Plan suffered
18 enormous losses as a result of their appointees’ imprudent actions and inaction with
19 respect to the Plan;

20 b. Failing to monitor their appointees’ fiduciary process, which would have
21 alerted any prudent fiduciary to the potential breach because of the widespread use of
22 proprietary funds from which Franklin — and by extension the Johnson family —
23 received profits in violation of ERISA;

24 c. Failing to ensure that the monitored fiduciaries appreciated the ready
25 availability of comparable and better performing Plan fund options that charged
26 significantly lower fees and expenses than the Plan’s Franklin funds; and
27
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1 d. Failing to remove appointees whose performance was inadequate in that
2 they continued to maintain the imprudent, and proprietary, options for participants'
3 retirement savings in the Plan during the Class Period, and who breached their
4 fiduciary duties under ERISA.

5 132. As a consequence of the Monitoring Defendants' breaches of fiduciary
6 duty, the Plan suffered substantial losses. If the Monitoring Defendants had
7 discharged their fiduciary monitoring duties prudently as described above, the losses
8 suffered by the Plan would have been minimized or avoided. Therefore, as a direct
9 result of the breaches of fiduciary duty alleged herein, the Plan, and indirectly the
10 Plaintiff and other Class members, lost tens of millions of dollars in retirement
11 savings.

12 133. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a), 1132(a)(2) and (a)(3), the Monitoring
13 Defendants are liable to restore the losses to the Plan caused by their breaches of
14 fiduciary duties alleged in this Count and to provide other equitable relief as
15 appropriate.

16 **IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as follows:

18 A. A declaration that the Defendants breached their fiduciary duties under
19 ERISA § 404 and engaged in Prohibited Transactions in violation of ERISA §406;

20 B. An order compelling the disgorgement of all fees paid and incurred,
21 directly or indirectly, to Franklin Templeton and its subsidiaries by the Plan or by
22 Proprietary Mutual Funds as a result of the Plan's investments in their funds,
23 including disgorgement of profits thereon;

24 C. An order compelling the Defendant to restore all losses to the Plan
25 arising from Defendants' violations of ERISA, including lost-opportunity costs;

26 D. An order granting appropriate equitable monetary relief against
27 Defendants;

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1 E. An order granting such other equitable or remedial relief as may be
2 appropriate, including the permanent removal of Defendants from any positions of
3 trust with respect to the Plan, the appointment of independent fiduciaries to
4 administer the Plan, and rescission of the Plan's investments in Proprietary Funds;

5 F. An order certifying this action as a class action, designating the Class
6 to receive the amounts restored or disgorged to the Plan, and imposing a
7 constructive trust for distribution of those amounts to the extent required by law;

8 G. An order enjoining Defendants collectively from any further violations
9 of their ERISA fiduciary responsibilities, obligations, and duties;

10 H. An order awarding Plaintiffs and the Class their attorneys' fees and
11 costs pursuant to ERISA § 502(g), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g), and/or the Common Fund
12 doctrine, along with pre- and post-judgment interest; and

13 I. An order awarding such other and further relief as the Court deems
14 equitable and just.

15
16 Dated: November 2, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

17 /s/ Gregory Y. Porter

18 Gregory Y. Porter, *pro hac vice* to be filed

19 Mark G. Boyko, *pro hac vice* to be filed

20 Bailey & Glasser LLP

1054 31st Street, NW Suite230

Washington, DC 20007

Telephone: (202) 463-2101

21 Facsimile: (202) 463-2103

22 gporter@baileyglasser.com

23 mboyko@baileyglasser.com

24 /s/ Mark P. Kindall

25 Mark P. Kindall, Cal. Bar No. 138703

26 Robert A. Izard, *pro hac vice* to be filed

IZARD KINDALL & RAABE LLP

27 29 South Main Street, Suite 305

28 West Hartford, CT 06107

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Telephone: (860) 493-6292
Facsimile: (860) 493-6290
rizard@ikrlaw.com
mkindall@ikrlaw.com

/s/ Joseph A. Creitz
Joseph A. Creitz, Cal. Bar No. 169552
Lisa S. Serebin, Cal Bar No. 146312
CREITZ & SEREBIN LLP
100 Pine Street, Suite 1250
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 466-3090
Facsimile: (415) 513-4475
joe@creitzserebin.com
lisa@creitzserebin.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

ATTESTATION

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from each of the other signatories.

Dated: November 2, 2017 /s/ Gregory Y. Porter
Gregory Y. Porter