

EXHIBIT 8

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF KANSAS
AT KANSAS CITY

CORA E. BENNETT, Individually and On)
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION, et al.,)

Defendants.)
_____)

Civil Action No. 2:09-cv-02122-EFM-KMH

DECLARATION OF CRAIG SLAUGHTER

I, Craig Slaughter declare as follows:

1. I am the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Investment Management Board (“WVIMB”). I respectfully submit this declaration in support of final approval of the \$131,000,000 settlement (“the Settlement”), the plan of allocation, and an award of 22% of the Settlement in attorneys’ fees to Lead Counsel, plus expenses incurred by Lead Counsel in litigating this case. I also submit this declaration in support of WVIMB’s request for reimbursement of \$14,345.25 in expenses associated with the time spent by myself and other WVIMB staff and counsel monitoring and participating in the litigation. I have personal knowledge of the statements herein, and, if called as a witness, could and would testify competently thereto.

2. WVIMB, as an institutional investor charged with providing prudent and professional investment management of funds for the benefit of West Virginia’s teachers, public employees and workers in general, has an interest in issues related to the integrity of the stock market. WVIMB made the decision to participate in this litigation as a Lead Plaintiff and Class Representative only after determining that it was a matter of importance to institutional and individual investors. In acting as Lead Plaintiff and Class Representative, WVIMB understood its responsibility to serve the best interests of the Class.

3. On June 5, 2009, this Court appointed WVIMB to serve as a Lead Plaintiff and on March 27, 2014 the Court appointed WVIMB, together with Lead Plaintiffs PACE and Skandia, to serve as a Class Representative. In fulfillment of its responsibilities on behalf of all Class Members, WVIMB, including myself: (i) engaged in numerous meetings, phone conferences, and correspondence with Lead Counsel; (ii) participated in the litigation and provided input into the prosecution of the case; (iii) kept fully informed regarding case status; (iv) reviewed documents filed in this action, including the Consolidated Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, motion to dismiss briefing and class certification briefing; (v) produced documents and provided

information in discovery; (vi) provided deposition testimony in connection with class certification discovery; (vii) consulted with counsel and provided input regarding litigation and settlement strategy; and (viii) monitored and was kept informed about the scheduling and progress of mediation and settlement negotiations.

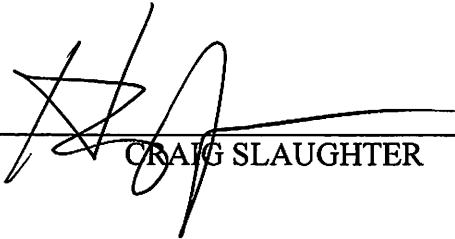
4. WVIMB authorized Lead Counsel to settle this action for \$131,000,000. In this regard, I reviewed, considered, and evaluated the merits of this case, including the law governing the allegations and facts developed through discovery, was kept apprised of the scheduling of and progress of the case and approved the proposed Settlement on behalf of WVIMB. In making its determination that the \$131,000,000 settlement fund represented a fair, reasonable, and adequate result for the Class, WVIMB weighed the substantial benefits to the Class against the significant risks and uncertainties of continued litigation. After doing so, and in consultation with the other Class Representatives, WVIMB believes that the Settlement represents an excellent recovery for the Class and a recovery that would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of Lead Counsel who aggressively litigated this case. WVIMB believes the Settlement represents a fair, reasonable, and adequate recovery on behalf of the Class, and that its approval is in the best interest of each Class Member.

5. While I recognize that any determination of fees is left to the Court, in consultation with the other Class Representatives, WVIMB has approved the request for a 22% attorneys' fee award, plus expenses not to exceed \$4,000,000. In determining that the proposed 22% fee was reasonable, WVIMB investigated fee awards in similarly-situated cases and took into account Lead Counsel's high-quality representation and diligence in prosecuting this litigation. Lead Counsel was instrumental in investigating and pleading the alleged fraud, litigating and arguing matters related to motions to dismiss, discovery, and class certification, and conducting extensive discovery.

6. Additionally, I understand that in cases such as this, the Court may make an award of reasonable costs and expenses (including lost wages) directly relating to the representation of the Class to any representative serving on behalf of the Class. As a consequence of the services performed by WVIMB in its efforts rendered in the best interest of the Class, WVIMB has incurred expenses associated with my time, as well as that of various WVIMB staff and counsel, monitoring and participating in the litigation. This time includes reviewing major pleadings and filings in this case, conferences and correspondence with counsel, searching for and producing documents, being deposed (including preparation for and travel to and from deposition), and participation in mediation and settlement discussions. As set forth in the attached schedule, I spent a total of 58.25 hours on the litigation. Based on my annual salary, my hourly rate is \$115.00. In addition, several members of the WVIMB's staff spent approximately 50 hours in the second half of 2011 related to WVIMB's participation in the litigation.¹ This involvement was centered on WVIMB's responses to defendants' discovery requests and included work done to search for, review and produce hard copy documents and electronic materials from WVIMB's information technology systems. Based on the hourly rates identified in the attached schedule, the unreimbursed expenses for time expended on the litigation is \$8,449.75. In addition, WVIMB incurred expenses of \$5,895.50 for payments to the fund's regular outside counsel, Bowles Rice LP, for matters related to this litigation, including responding to discovery requests. These unreimbursed expenses were reasonably and necessarily incurred in connection with WVIMB's services to all Class Members in the case and I believe they are both fair and reasonable.

¹ Rebecca King worked 27 hours at an hourly rate of \$40; Jane Heitz worked 5 hours at an hourly rate of \$16; Milly Torman worked 15 hours at an hourly rate of \$27; and John Cole worked 3 hours at an hourly rate of \$62.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 1st day of May, 2015, at Charleston, West Virginia.


CRAIG SLAUGHTER

ATTACHMENT A

Date	Description	Time
April 30, 2009	Correspondence with counsel re: loss, standing and potential involvement in action	0.25
May 1, 2009	Conference call with counsel re: case status, loss and potential involvement in case	0.50
May 4, 2009	Conference call with counsel re: allegations of case and complaint	0.50
May 4, 2009	Conference call with outside counsel and securities counsel re: case and WVIMB's involvement	0.50
May 6, 2009	Correspondence with counsel re: governance issues and reforms.	0.25
May 8, 2009	Conference call with counsel and Board of Trustees regarding case and lead plaintiff motion, discuss WVIMB press release	0.50
May 11, 2009	Teleconference with counsel re: status of case and lead plaintiff motion	0.50
May 26, 2009	Conference call with counsel re: lead plaintiff motion	0.50
June 9, 2009	Telephone call with outside counsel (Edd McDevitt) and securities counsel re: status of case and update attorney on case.	0.50
August 7, 2009	Conference call with Edd McDevitt and securities counsel re: status of case and draft complaint	0.50
August 7, 2009	Correspondence and conference call with securities counsel re: consolidated complaint; review draft complaint	2.00
August 11, 2009	Correspondence re: and review copy of filed Consolidated Complaint	1.00
October 5, 2009	Correspondence with counsel re: defendants' motion to dismiss; review copy of brief	1.00
November 13, 2009	Review draft of opposition to defendants' motion to dismiss	1.00
December 18, 2009	Correspondence with counsel and review copy of defendants' reply memo in support of motion to dismiss	1.00
January 6, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: court's order denying motion to dismiss; evaluate order	0.25
January 20, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: defendants' Section 1292(b) interlocutory appeal	0.25
January 31, 2011	Correspondence re: defendants' answer to complaint; evaluate answer	0.25
February 2, 2011	Correspondence re: opposition to defendants' Section 1292(b) interlocutory appeal; evaluate brief	0.50
February 3, 2011	Schedule meeting with counsel re: discovery	0.25
February 11, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: discovery	0.25
February 14, 2011	Set up meeting with counsel re: ESI and discovery	0.25
February 15, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: meeting	0.25
February 15, 2011	Confer with attorneys about agenda for ESI meeting; review memo regarding ESI systems and architecture, and provide feedback	0.50
February 18, 2011	Meeting with counsel re: ESI and discovery	3.00

Date	Description	Time
March 15, 2011	Conference call with counsel re: document production, class certification and discovery issues	0.25
March 15, 2011	Conference call with counsel re: status of case and discovery	0.25
March 21, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: production of client documents	0.25
March 30, 2011	Call and correspondence with counsel re: document production and discovery	0.25
March 31, 2011	Call and correspondence with counsel re: production of documents	0.25
May 16, 2011	Conference call with counsel regarding preservation hold memos and policies, as well as plaintiff requirements post-pension committee	0.25
May 18, 2011	Conference call with WVIMB regarding status of case, document production and protective order	0.25
June 15, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: discovery and responses to defendants' interrogatories	0.25
August 15, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: document collection and production (investment and litigation policies)	0.25
August 18, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: document collection and production	0.25
August 23, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: document collection and production	0.25
October 20, 2011	Conference call with counsel re: discovery and document production	0.25
November 7, 2011	Conference call with securities counsel and outside counsel re: class certification, briefing and addition of bond claims	0.50
November 9, 2011	Conference call with counsel re: discovery (document production and interrogatory responses), class cert and the addition of bond claims	0.50
November 16, 2011	Review draft of motion to certify class	1.50
November 17, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: motion to certify class	0.50
November 23, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: FRCP 30(b)(6) deposition notice	0.25
November 28, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: FRCP 30(b)(6) deposition notice	0.25
November 30, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: deposition dates and 30(b)(6) deposition	0.25
December 16, 2011	Conference call with counsel re: Court's intent to appoint Special Master	0.25
December 23, 2011	Correspondence with counsel re: discovery and verification	0.25
January 10, 2012	Review memo from counsel for deposition prep; review client verifications	1.00
January 27, 2012	Correspondence with counsel re: ESI special master; discovery briefing and set up conference call to discuss upcoming discovery and strategy	0.50
February 1, 2012	Correspondence with counsel re: case, strategy and discovery; set up conference call re: same	0.50
February 2, 2012	Conference call with counsel to discuss discovery; status of case and strategy	0.50
February 2, 2012	Call with counsel re: class certification/status	0.25

Date	Description	Time
February 8, 2012	Correspondence with counsel re: deposition schedule	0.25
February 22, 2012	Meeting to discuss case and prepare for deposition; discuss document preservation	4.00
February 27, 2012	Meeting with counsel to discuss case and prepare for deposition; discuss strategy	4.00
February 28, 2012	Meeting w/ counsel to prepare for deposition; sit for deposition	6.00
April 9, 2012	Conference call with counsel re: market efficiency, class cert and bonds; discussion re: defendants' offer to stip to class cert	0.50
April 10, 2012	Conference call with outside counsel and securities counsel re: class certification issues	0.50
May 2, 2012	Correspondence with counsel re: defendants' opposition to class certification motion; review opposition	1.50
June 21, 2012	Correspondence with counsel re: discovery responses	0.25
June 26, 2012	Correspondence with counsel re: discovery verification	0.25
July 16, 2012	Correspondence with client re: draft class certification reply brief; review draft brief	1.50
October 12, 2012	Correspondence with counsel re: soft bank news and possible Sprint acquisition; implications on case	0.25
January 31, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: potential mediation and case strategy	0.25
February 27, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: mediation; conference call re: same	0.50
February 28, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: case update and scheduling conference call	0.25
March 5, 2013	Conference call with counsel re: mediation, mediation statement and status of case	0.50
March 20, 2013	Conference call with counsel re: mediation and potential resolution; review latest draft of mediation statement	
March 21, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: mediation and mediation statement	0.25
March 26, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: court's order on class certification and motion to strike	0.25
April 2, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: draft of reply mediation statement; review draft	1.00
April 9, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: mediation and contact numbers for updates	0.25
April 11, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: status of mediation	0.50
June 21, 2013	Correspondence with counsel re: defendants' surreply; review copy of same	1.00
March 27, 2014	Correspondence with counsel re: Court's order granting certification; review copy of same	1.00
April 14, 2014	Correspondence with counsel regarding status of case and defendants' Rule 23(f) petition	0.25

Date	Description	Time
April 28, 2014	Correspondence with client regarding opposition to defendants' Rule 23(f) petition	0.25
May 22, 2014	Correspondence with client regarding proposed mediation and dates	0.25
May 28, 2014	Correspondence with client regarding order denying Rule 23(f) petition	0.25
June 30, 2014	Confer with counsel re: case update	0.25
June 30, 2014	Correspondence with counsel regarding mediation and pre-mediation conference call	0.25
July 1, 2014	Conference call with counsel regarding mediation, settlement discussions and status of litigation	0.50
July 24, 2014	Correspondence with counsel regarding status of case and mediation	0.25
July 29, 2014	Call with counsel re: litigation and settlement update	0.50
August 13, 2014	Conference with counsel regarding case status and strategy	0.50
August 20, 2014	Correspondence with counsel regarding settlement discussion and cancellation of mediation	0.25
October 2, 2014	Correspondence with counsel regarding discovery responses and verification of same	0.25
November 17, 2014	Correspondence with counsel regarding recent developments, case and settlement status	0.25
November 19, 2014	Conference call with counsel re: recent development, status of the case and mediation	0.50
November 24, 2014	Call with counsel re: case update, litigation strategy and settlement talks	0.50
November 24, 2014	Conference call and correspondence with counsel status of settlement discussions and mediation	0.50
November 25, 2014	Correspondence with counsel re: status of case and settlement developments	0.25
December 1, 2014	Correspondence with counsel re: mediation	0.25
December 6, 2014	Correspondence with counsel re: status of mediation	0.25
December 22, 2014	Conference call with counsel re: mediation and settlement issues	0.50
December 29, 2014	Correspondence with counsel re: settlement and mediator's proposal	0.50
Total Hours		<u>58.25</u>