



For immediate release

Orange County Employees Retirement System Announces Settlement of Wachovia Bond and Preferred Securities Litigation for \$627 Million

SANTA ANA, CA (August 5, 2011) – The Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS), like other investors, sustained financial losses during the meltdown of 2008. These investor losses resulted in multiple class action lawsuits against companies and individuals who made false and / or misleading statements in securities registration documents. Some of the losses sustained by OCERS were due to investment in bonds and preferred stock issued by Wachovia Bank (since acquired by Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC)).

OCERS is one of three court-appointed lead plaintiffs for a class of investors who purchased certain Wachovia Corporation (Wachovia) bonds and preferred securities sold in publicly registered offerings between July 31, 2006 and May 29, 2008.

OCERS is pleased to announce that the lead plaintiffs have agreed to a global settlement of the matter with all defendants for a total recovery of \$627 million in cash. This recovery is comprised of a \$590 million settlement with Wachovia, and an additional \$37 million settlement with Wachovia's auditor, KPMG LLP ("KPMG"). OCERS will receive a portion of this settlement at the end of the claims processing phase of the litigation.

The combined \$627 million settlement is among the largest securities class action recoveries in history. OCERS believes it is the largest settlement ever in a case asserting claims exclusively

under Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933. Likewise, the \$37 million settlement with KPMG is among the largest settlements ever reached with an auditor in a case asserting claims only under Section 11.

“We are excited to announce such a significant recovery in this matter on behalf of OCERS and the other class plaintiffs,” said Steve Delaney, OCERS Chief Executive Officer. “We believe that these settlements reflect an outstanding result for purchasers who were damaged as a result of the false and misleading offering materials issued in connection with Wachovia’s public bond and preferred stock offerings.”

The settlement represents a global settlement of all claims by the represented class of bond and preferred stock holders. OCERS’ share of the settlement will be determined during a claims processing phase that is standard in securities litigation cases. The amount of individual investor recovery depends on the number of claimants and the amount of damages claimed by investors.

OCERS maintains an active securities litigation monitoring program that helps insure OCERS receives the maximum allowable recovery in securities class action lawsuits.

Both settlements must be reviewed and approved by Judge Richard J. Sullivan in the United States District Court in New York, New York, after notice is provided to the class.

OCERS is represented in this matter by Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP.

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SOURCE: Orange County Employees’ Retirement System – www.ocers.org; Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP