

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE LIBOR-BASED FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ANTITRUST LITIGATION	MDL No. 2262
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:	Master File No. 1:11-md-2262-NRB ECF Case
The Lender Action	

**[PROPOSED] ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT BETWEEN LENDER PLAINTIFFS, THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP PLC (N/K/A NATWEST GROUP PLC), BRITISH BANKERS' ASSOCIATION, BBA ENTERPRISES LTD., BBA TRENT LTD. (F/K/A BBA LIBOR LTD.), COÖPERATIEVE RABOBANK U.A. (F/K/A COÖPERATIEVE CENTRALE RAIFFEISEN-BOERENLEENBANK B.A.), LLOYDS BANKING GROUP PLC, AND HBOS PLC, THE NORINCHUKIN BANK, PORTIGON AG (F/K/A WESTLB AG), WESTDEUTSCHE IMMOBILIEN SERVICING AG (F/K/A WESTDEUTSCHE IMMOBILIENBANK AG), AND ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, CONDITIONALLY CERTIFYING THE LENDER SETTLEMENT CLASS, APPOINTING SETTLEMENT CLASS COUNSEL, APPROVING NOTICE PROGRAM AND PRELIMINARILY APPROVING PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on Lender Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement with The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc (n/k/a NatWest Group plc), British Bankers' Association, BBA Enterprises Ltd., BBA Trent Ltd. (f/k/a BBA LIBOR Ltd.), Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A. (f/k/a Coöperatieve Centrale Raiffeisen-Boerenleenbank B.A.), Lloyds Banking Group plc and HBOS plc (together, "Lloyds"), The Norinchukin Bank, Portigon AG (f/k/a WestLB AG), Westdeutsche Immobilien Servicing AG (f/k/a Westdeutsche ImmobilienBank AG), and Royal Bank of Canada (collectively, "Settling Defendants"), filed on

May 28, 2024 (“the Settlement”)<sup>1</sup>, Conditional Certification of the Lender Class, Appointment of Settlement Class Counsel, Approval of Notice Program and Preliminary Approval of Plan of Distribution of the Settlement Agreement;

The Court, having reviewed the Motion, its accompanying memorandum, the Settlement Agreement, the Declaration of Jeremy A. Lieberman (“Lieberman Declaration”) and exhibits thereto, the Plan of Distribution, the Declaration of Jennifer M. Keough and exhibits thereto and the file;

**HEREBY ORDERS, ADJUDGES, AND DECREES:**

**PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT**

1. The Settlement is hereby preliminarily approved, subject to final Court approval pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 following a hearing to be held by the Court, on notice to the Lender Class (defined below), to determine whether the Settlement is reasonable, adequate, and fair to the Lender Class (“Fairness Hearing”), as discussed below. The Court finds that the Settlement was entered into at arm’s length by experienced counsel and it is sufficiently within the range of reasonableness that notice of the Settlement should be given to the members of the Lender Class as provided in this Order.

**CERTIFICATION OF THE LENDER CLASS**

2. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and in light of the proposed Settlement, the Court hereby finds that the prerequisites for conditional certification have been met and certifies the following class for settlement purposes only (the “Settlement Class”):

All lending institutions headquartered in the United States, including its fifty (50) states and United States territories, that originated loans, held loans, held interests in loans, purchased loans, purchased interests in loans, sold loans, or sold interests in loans with interest rates based upon U.S.

---

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, capitalized terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

Dollar LIBOR, which rates adjusted at any time between August 1, 2007 and May 31, 2010 (the “Class Period”).<sup>2</sup>

3. The Court finds that the certification of the Settlement Class is warranted in light of and solely for the purpose of the Settlement because (a) the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable; (b) the claims of Lender Plaintiffs (defined below) present common issues and are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class; (c) Lender Plaintiffs and Lenders Class Counsel (defined below) will fairly and adequately represent the Settlement Class; and (d) common issues predominate over any individual issues affecting the members of the Settlement Class. The Court further finds that Lender Plaintiffs’ interests are aligned with the interests of all other members of the Settlement Class. The Court also finds that approval of the Settlement on a class basis is superior to other means of resolving this matter.

4. The Court hereby appoints Pomerantz LLP as counsel for the Settlement Class (“Settlement Class Counsel”), having determined that the requirements of Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are fully satisfied by this appointment.

5. The Court hereby appoints The Berkshire Bank and The Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico (“Lender Plaintiffs”) to serve as representatives of the Settlement Class.

6. A Fairness Hearing pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e) is hereby scheduled to be held before the Court on                     <sup>October 17</sup>, 2024 at 11 a   .m., in a format to be determined by the Court that the Court will announce on the case docket in advance of the hearing, for the following purposes:

- a. to determine whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and should be approved by the Court;

---

<sup>2</sup> As specified in the Settlement Agreement, the Lender Class excludes Defendants and their employees, affiliates, parents and subsidiaries.

- b. to finally determine whether the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal as provided under the Settlement should be entered, dismissing the operative Complaint by the Lender Plaintiffs on the merits and with prejudice as Settling Defendants and to determine whether the release by the Settlement Class of the Released Parties as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, should be ordered, along with a permanent injunction barring efforts to bring any Released Claims extinguished by the Settlement;
- c. to finally determine whether the proposed Plan of Distribution for the distribution of the Net Settlement Funds is fair and reasonable and should be approved by the Court;
- d. to consider the Fee and Expense Application and any application for service awards to any Lender Plaintiff;
- e. to consider Settlement Class Members' objections to the Settlement, if any, whether submitted previously in writing or presented orally at the Fairness Hearing by Settlement Class Members (or by counsel on their behalf); and
- f. to rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

7. The Court reserves the right to approve the Settlement with such modifications as may be agreed upon or consented to by the Parties and without further notice to the Settlement Class where to do so would not impair Settlement Class Members' rights in a manner inconsistent with Rule 23 and due process of law. The Court further reserves the right to enter its Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal, approving the Settlement and dismissing the Complaint, on the merits and with prejudice, regardless of whether it has approved the Plan of Distribution or awarded attorneys' fees and expenses or made an award to Lender Plaintiffs.

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL CLASS MEMBERS AND PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

8. The Court approves the form, substance and requirements of (a) the Notice, (b) the Summary Notice, and (c) the proof of claim, all of which are exhibits to the Declaration of the Jennifer Keough.

9. The Plan of Distribution set forth in Exhibit 3 to the Lieberman Declaration in Support of Lender Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement with Settling Defendants, Conditional Certification of Settlement Class, Appointment of Class Counsel, Approval of Notice Program and Preliminary Approval of Plan of Distribution is preliminarily approved. The use of the modeling, as described in the Memorandum of Law is preliminarily approved without prejudice to the rights of any Settling Defendants to contest certification of any other class proposed in these consolidated actions. The expert modeling or calculations determined by modeling are not binding on the Court and are only for the purposes of these Settlement Agreement.

10. Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel has the authority to enter into the Settlement on behalf of the Settlement Class and is authorized to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Members with respect to all acts or consents required by or that may be given pursuant to the Settlement or such other acts that are reasonably necessary to consummate the Settlement.

11. The Court approves JND Legal Administration as the Claims Administrator.

12. The Court approves the Huntington Bank as Escrow Agent.

13. Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel, through the Claims Administrator, shall cause the Notice, substantially in the form annexed hereto, to be mailed, by first class mail, postage prepaid, within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the entry of this Order, to all Settlement Class Members who can be identified with reasonable effort by the Claims Administrator.

14. Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel is authorized to establish a settlement account of \$1,900,000 (one million nine hundred thousand U.S. dollars) in accordance with the provisions of the Settlement ("Settlement Fund"). All funds held in the Settlement Fund shall be deemed to be *in custodia legis* and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of this Court until such time as the funds shall be distributed or returned pursuant to the Settlement and/or further order of the Court.

15. Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel may pay from the Settlement Fund on a nonrefundable basis, without further approval from Settling Defendants or the Court, the costs and expenses reasonably and actually incurred up to the sum of \$125,000 in connection with providing Class Notice and the administration of the Settlement, including, without limitation, locating members of the Settlement Class, soliciting Lender Class Members' claims, assisting with the filing of claims, administering and distributing the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants, and processing proof of claim and release forms. All costs and expenses incurred in connection with providing Class Notice and administration of the Settlement in excess of \$125,000 shall be paid from the Settlement Fund only with the Court's approval.

16. The Claims Administrator is authorized and directed to prepare any tax returns and any other tax reporting forms for, or in respect of, the Settlement Funds, to pay from the Settlement Funds any Taxes owed with respect to the Settlement Funds, and otherwise to perform all obligations with respect to Taxes and any reporting or filings in respect thereof without further order of this Court in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

17. The Claims Administrator shall, at or before the Fairness Hearing, serve upon Settling Defendants' Counsel, and file with the Court, proof of mailing of the Notice, to Lender Class Members.

18. Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel, through the Claims Administrator, shall cause the Summary Notice to be circulated within twenty-eight (28) calendar days after the entry of this Order as follows: (i) published once in *IBD Weekly* and *The Wall Street Journal*; and (ii) issue a press release on PR Newswire. Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel shall, at or before the Fairness Hearing, serve upon Settling Defendants' Counsel, and file with the Court proof of publication of the Summary Notice.

19. The forms and methods set forth herein of notifying the Lender Class of the Settlement and their terms and conditions meet the requirements of due process and Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances; and constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto. No Lender Class Member will be relieved from the terms of the Settlement, including the releases provided for therein, based upon the contention or proof that such Lender Class Member failed to receive actual or adequate notice.

20. In order to be entitled to participate in recovery from the Net Settlement Funds after the Effective Date, each Lender Class Member shall take the following action and be subject to the following conditions:

- a. A properly completed and executed proof of claim must be submitted to the Claims Administrator, at the Post Office Box indicated in the Notice, postmarked no later than thirty (35) calendar days prior to the Fairness Hearing. Such deadline may be further extended by Order of the Court. Each proof of claim shall be deemed to have been submitted when legibly postmarked (if properly addressed and mailed by first-class mail) provided such proof of claim is actually received before the filing of a motion for an Order of the Court approving distribution of the Net Settlement Fund. Any proof of

claim submitted in any other manner shall be deemed to have been submitted when it was actually received by the Claims Administrator at the address designated in the Notice.

- b. The proof of claim submitted by each Lender Class Member must satisfy the following conditions: (i) it must be properly filled out, signed and submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding subparagraph; (ii) it must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation for the transactions reported therein as is deemed adequate by the Claims Administrator or Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel; (iii) if the person executing the proof of claim is acting in a representative capacity, a certification of his current authority to act on behalf of the Lender Class Member must be provided with the proof of claim; and (iv) the proof of claim must be complete and contain no material deletions or modifications of any of the printed matter contained therein and must be signed under penalty of perjury.
- c. Once the Claims Administrator has considered a timely submitted proof of claim, it shall determine whether such claim is valid, deficient or rejected. For each claim determined to be either deficient or rejected, the Claims Administrator shall send a deficiency letter or rejection letter as appropriate, describing the basis on which the claim was so determined. Persons who timely submit a proof of claim that is deficient or otherwise rejected shall be afforded a reasonable time (at least seven (7) calendar days) to cure such deficiency if it shall appear that such deficiency may be cured.
- d. For the filing of and all determinations concerning their proof of claim, each Lender Class Member shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Court.



21. All Lender Class Members who do not submit valid and timely proofs of claim will be forever barred from receiving any payments from the Net Settlement Fund but will in all other respects be subjects to and bound by the provisions of the Settlement Agreement and the Order and Final Judgment, if entered.

22. Lender Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Lender Action, whether favorable or unfavorable, unless such persons request exclusion from the Lender Class in a timely and proper manner, as hereinafter provided. A Lender Class Member wishing to make such request shall mail it, in written form, by first class mail, postage prepaid, or otherwise deliver it, so that it is postmarked no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Fairness Hearing on September 26, 2024, to the addresses listed in the Notice. Such request for exclusion shall clearly indicate the name, address, phone number and e-mail (if any) of the person seeking exclusion, state that the sender specifically requests to be excluded from the Lender Class and must be signed by such person. Such persons requesting exclusion are also required to list and provide documentation regarding any instruments within the Lender Settlement Class definition, including the origination, purchase, or receipt of or the holding of any interest in all loans with interest rates tied to USD LIBOR that adjusted during the Class Period, including any loans issued to the excluding party during the Class Period. Such documentation should also demonstrate the interest received or paid during the Class Period for such loans. The request for exclusion shall not be effective unless it provides the required information, is legible, and is made within the time stated above, or the exclusion is otherwise accepted by the Court. Lender Plaintiffs' Counsel may contact any person or entity filing a request for exclusion, or their attorney if one is designated, to discuss the exclusion.

23. Lender Class Members requesting exclusion from the Lender Class shall not be entitled to receive any payment out of the Net Settlement Funds.

24. The Court will consider comments and/or objections to the Settlement, the Plan of Distribution, or the Fee and Expense Application or any application for service awards to Lender Plaintiffs only if such comments or objections and any supporting papers are publicly filed with the Court at least twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Fairness Hearing and served upon each of the following:

***Counsel for Lender Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class***

Jeremy A. Lieberman, Esq.  
Michael J. Wernke, Esq.  
POMERANTZ LLP  
600 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

***Defendant Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A. Counsel***

David R. Gelfand  
MILBANK LLP  
55 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY 10001

***Defendants British Bankers' Association, BBA Enterprises Ltd. and BBA Trent Ltd. (f/k/a BBA LIBOR Ltd.) Counsel***

Richard D. Owens  
Lilia B. Vazova  
LATHAM & WATKINS LLP  
1271 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10020

***Defendants Lloyds Banking Group plc and HBOS plc Counsel***

Marc J. Gottridge  
Lisa J. Fried  
HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS NEW YORK LLP  
450 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Benjamin A. Fleming  
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP  
390 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

***Defendant Royal Bank of Canada Counsel***

Brian J. Poronsky  
Matthew W. Haws  
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP  
525 West Monroe Street  
Chicago, IL 60662

***Defendant NatWest Group plc Counsel***

David S. Lesser  
Brian Donovan  
KING & SPALDING LLP  
1185 Avenue of the Americas, 34th Floor  
New York, NY 10036

G. Patrick Montgomery  
KING & SPALDING LLP  
1700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20006

***Defendant The Norinchukin Bank Counsel***

Andrew W. Stern  
Tom A. Paskowitz  
SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10019

***Defendants Portigon AG and Westdeutsche Immobilienbank AG Counsel***

Christopher M. Paparella  
Justin Ben-Asher  
STEPTOE LLP  
1114 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036

and the objector has (by that same date) filed said objections, papers, and briefs, showing due proof of service upon counsel identified above, with the Clerk of the Court, U.S. District Court for the

Southern District of New York, Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007. Attendance at the Fairness Hearing is not necessary but persons wishing to be heard orally in opposition to the Settlement, the Plan of Distribution, and/or the Fee and Expense Application, or any application for service awards to any Lender Plaintiffs are required to indicate in their written objection (or in a separate writing that is submitted in accordance with the deadline and after instruction pertinent to the submission of a written objection) that they intend to appear at the Fairness Hearing and identify any witnesses they may call to testify or exhibits they intend to introduce into evidence at the Fairness Hearing. Lender Class Members do not need to appear at the Fairness Hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval.

25. Any Lender Class Member who does not object in the manner prescribed above shall be deemed to have waived all such objections and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness, adequacy or reasonableness of the Settlement, the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal to be entered approving the Settlement, the Plan of Distribution, the Fee and Expense Application, and any application for service awards to any Lender Plaintiff.

26. The Court reserves the right to adjourn the Fairness Hearing or any adjournment thereof without any further notice other than entry of an Order on the Court's docket, and to approve the Settlement without further notice to the Lender Class.

27. All papers in support of the Settlement, the Plan of Distribution and any Fee and Expense Application and any application for service awards to any Lender Plaintiff shall be filed and served thirty-five (35) calendar days before the Fairness Hearing.

28. Any submissions filed in response to any objections or in further support of the Settlement, the Plan of Distribution and any Fee and Expense Application or any application for

service awards to any Lender Plaintiff shall be filed no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Fairness Hearing.

**OTHER PROVISIONS**


29. In the event that the Settlement is terminated in accordance with its provisions, the Settlement Agreement and all proceedings had in connection therewith shall be null and void, except insofar as expressly provided to the contrary in the Settlement Agreement and without prejudice to the *status quo ante* rights of Lender Plaintiffs, the Settling Defendants, and the members of the Lender Class.

30. The Court's certification of the Settlement Class as provided herein is without prejudice to, or waiver of the rights of any defendant to contest certification of any other class proposed in these consolidated actions. The Court's findings in this Order shall have no effect on the Court's ruling on any motion to certify any litigation class in this action and no party may cite or refer to the Court's approval of the Settlement Class as persuasive or binding authority with respect to any motion to certify any such class.

31. All proceedings in the action with respect to Settling Defendants are stayed until further order of the Court. Such stay does not apply, however, to actions to implement or comply with the terms of the Agreement. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement Agreement should be approved, neither Lender Plaintiffs nor any member of the Lender Class shall commence or prosecute any action alleging any Released Claim against any Settling Defendant or other released party.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**

DATED: June 12, 2024

  
NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE