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11 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.

12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
13 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA –**
14 **SAN DIEGO DIVISION**

15 IN RE: BANK OF AMERICA
16 CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT
17 BENEFITS LITIGATION

Case No. 21-MD-02992-GPC-MSB

**DECLARATION OF WILLIAM
MARTIN IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANT BANK OF
AMERICA, N.A.’S MOTIONS TO
SEAL DOCUMENTS FILED IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’
MOTION FOR CLASS
CERTIFICATION**

Ctrm: 2D – 2nd Floor
Judge: Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel

1 I, William Martin, declare as follows:

2 1. I am employed by Bank of America, N.A. (“BANA”) as Senior Vice
3 President of Fraud Operations and a TFSO Global Fraud Operations Executive. I
4 make this declaration based upon personal knowledge and belief, upon BANA’s
5 records maintained in the ordinary course and scope of business, and upon
6 information gathered from other BANA employees. If called to testify as to any of
7 the matters set forth in this declaration, I could and would competently testify thereto.

8 2. In my capacity as Program Management Executive in Prepaid
9 Unemployment, and in my prior role as Senior Fraud Policy Manager in Prepaid
10 Unemployment, my responsibilities include leading the prepaid fraud operations
11 team, analyzing fraud associated with unauthorized transaction claims, and
12 identifying characteristics of those claims in order to detect and prevent future fraud.
13 In the past, I was also responsible for commercial, prepaid, and treasury fraud
14 operations, which included similar responsibilities but for commercial and treasury
15 products in addition to prepaid.

16 **BANA’s Fraud Prevention Policies, Procedures and Strategies**

17 3. BANA is committed to identifying and attempting to prevent fraud and
18 other criminal activity involving the use of its products or business. BANA works
19 hard to help protect its customers and their funds from fraud, and to ensure that
20 criminals cannot use BANA to hide or launder the proceeds of their criminal activity.

21 4. Based on various fraud analytics, BANA designs and implements a
22 number of different strategies aimed at detecting, preventing, and deterring fraud.
23 These antifraud strategies include blocking suspicious transactions, or blocking or
24 freezing accounts that appear to be fraudulent. BANA regularly uses account freezes
25 and blocks across all of its programs (including prepaid debit card, retail credit cards,
26 or checking or savings accounts). Account freezes and blocks prevent access to
27 accounts that BANA suspects are being used for fraud or other criminal purposes.
28

1 5. BANA takes great care to keep these fraud strategies confidential
2 because they would lose their effectiveness if they were disclosed. BANA is thus
3 careful not to publicize or circulate its fraud mitigation strategies, techniques,
4 analytical approaches, or findings, because if it did so that would provide a roadmap
5 for criminals to use in circumventing BANA's fraud protections in the future. If
6 criminals knew, for example, the type or combination of activity that would trigger
7 BANA to identify a transaction or account as fraudulent, they would devise ways to
8 circumvent those protections. This is a very real concern; we have often seen that as
9 soon as BANA takes action to identify and mitigate fraud, there is discussion of those
10 actions, or underlying techniques, on social media and the dark web (often in real
11 time) by those who are trying to evade BANA's defenses.

12 6. It is not only common in the industry to maintain confidentiality
13 surrounding potential indicators of illicit activity, it is also encouraged (and in some
14 instances, required) by regulators and law enforcement.

15 7. Even fraud strategies that have been discontinued by BANA, such as the
16 Claim Fraud Filter, are still confidential and should not be disclosed to the public
17 because certain elements of those strategies may still be used today or in the future
18 as one of BANA's many fraud strategies and algorithms utilized to monitor or
19 prevent fraud across its many products and services. Additionally, disclosure of
20 discontinued fraud strategies or elements of fraud strategies can provide insight to a
21 potential fraudster regarding BANA's fraud prevention measures that could be used
22 to decipher current or future fraud strategies, or to assist them in avoiding detection
23 or in concocting future frauds. Moreover, BANA has invested substantial resources
24 into its fraud strategies, and public disclosure of those strategies could result in
25 competitor financial institutions gaining access to and using those strategies to
26 BANA's competitive disadvantage.

27 8. Similarly, fraud technologies that are no longer being used with respect
28 to one program may still be used with respect to other BANA programs and lines of

1 business. For example, even though BANA no longer issues EMV chip-enabled
2 cards to EDD cardholders (as it exited the EDD program), BANA does still utilize
3 EMV chip technology with respect to other products and lines of business. Thus,
4 BANA's internal analyses regarding the types of fraud that EMV chips prevent and
5 the types of fraud that they do not prevent, as well as the effectiveness of EMV chips
6 in preventing certain types of fraud, are still useful and relevant. This analysis is kept
7 confidential and not shared with the public because it could be used by a potential
8 fraudster to circumvent the technology and commit future fraud. It could also be
9 used by a competitor financial institution to BANA's competitive disadvantage.

10 9. How BANA structures its organization to detect and deter fraud is also
11 commercially sensitive information that BANA does not disclose. Disclosure of such
12 information could provide potential fraudsters with insight into BANA's
13 organization that could be used to evade detection and commit fraud against BANA
14 and its customers. The information could also be replicated by other financial
15 institutions to BANA's competitive detriment.

16 10. BANA also continues to operate call centers to answer cardholders'
17 calls and to authenticate callers, both within prepaid and other lines of business, and
18 the details regarding BANA's call center operations, including the different types of
19 call centers utilized by BANA, the roles and responsibilities of each call center, and
20 BANA's negotiated contractual terms with vendors that it engages to operate certain
21 call centers, are all commercially sensitive information that, if disclosed, could be
22 used by another financial institution to compete against BANA or could be used by
23 third parties to try to circumvent BANA's fraud prevention measures.

24 I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

25 Executed on this 3rd day of October, 2024.

26 By: s/ William Martin
27

28 WILLIAM MARTIN

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Section 2(f)(4) of the Electronic Case Filing Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, I hereby certify that the content of this document is acceptable to William Martin, and that I have obtained William Martin's electronic signature in the filing of this document.

Dated: 10/3/2024

/s/ James W. McGarry

James W. McGarry