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April 11, 2023

Re: Social Media Litigation

Dear Retainer Client:

Schools nationwide have recently started joining a nationwide litigation against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and other social media platforms. The lawsuit asserts that social media companies targeted minors to maximize profits despite knowing the severe detrimental effects excessive social media use causes to minors. Research confirms that social media use is associated with increased rates of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, suicide, and property damage.

Frantz Law Group, the California law firm representing at least 125 Michigan schools in the nationwide litigation against Juul and other vaping product manufacturers, is also representing schools in the social media litigation. As it did with the vaping litigation, Frantz requested that Thrun Law Firm determine whether Michigan schools are interested in joining the social media litigation and, if so, to facilitate contact with Frantz. School districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies are eligible to join the social media litigation.

The social media litigation seeks monetary compensation for past damages incurred by schools related to the social media epidemic created by the defendants, as well as anticipated future damages.

For past damages, the litigation seeks reimbursement for costs associated with social media use, such as property damage caused by students engaging in social media trends and any lost state aid caused by social media suspensions and expulsions. For future damages, the litigation seeks compensation for appropriately handling social media-related issues going forward, including funds for counselors and educational programming.

As with the vaping litigation, Frantz will seek a court order restricting discovery to a questionnaire. Until that order is granted, however, schools will be required – with assistance from Frantz – to respond to written questions and document requests from the defendants. Frantz estimates that school staff time related to this litigation will not exceed 10 hours. Frantz informed us that at this stage of the litigation, it does not expect that school staff will be required to appear in court or to participate in depositions.

Aside from discovery, the terms for participating in the social media litigation are the same as those for participating in the vaping litigation. Frantz will represent schools on a contingency fee basis, meaning Frantz will not charge any fees or costs unless there is a financial recovery. Frantz will receive 25% of any recovery. Thrun will receive a portion of that 25%. If there is a



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recovery, schools would also reimburse Frantz out of the recovery for costs incurred by Frantz during the litigation, such as court filing costs and expert witness fees.

A recovery in the litigation is not guaranteed. Thrun is not co-counsel in the litigation – our role is limited to referring clients to Frantz.

Thrun can arrange for Frantz to make a presentation to your board about the litigation. To join the litigation, your Board would need to approve the accompanying resolution and the contract attached to that resolution.

Signed resolutions and contracts should be returned by December 29, 2023 to pmatusiak@thrunlaw.com. If your Board would like more information about the litigation, please contact Piotr Matusiak at pmatusiak@thrunlaw.com or call (517) 374-8824.

Thrun Law Firm, P.C.

**EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION**

A regular meeting of the East Lansing Public Schools (“School”) Board of Education (the “Board”) was held on the 8th day of May, 2023 at the following time: 7PM (“Meeting”).

The Meeting was called to order by _____, President

Present:

Absent:

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____.

WHEREAS:

1. In January 2023, Seattle Public Schools, Pittsburg Public Schools, and other public schools joined a nationwide litigation against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and other social media platforms in a California federal court, specifically Case No. 22-MD-3047-YGR in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California (“Lawsuit”).

2. The Lawsuit seeks monetary damages and injunctive relief associated with defendants targeting minors to maximize profits despite knowing the severe detrimental effects excessive social media use causes to minors.

3. Schools in the Lawsuit are being represented by Frantz Law Group, APLC, a California professional law corporation (“Frantz”).

4. Thrun Law Firm, P.C. referred the School to Frantz for the Lawsuit.

5. The Board believes it is in the School’s best interests to join the Lawsuit on the terms specified in the attached Attorney-Client Fee Contract.

6. The Board believes it is in the School’s best interests to authorize and direct Superintendent or designee to sign the attached Attorney-Client Fee Contract on behalf of the School and to take such other action as necessary to obtain monetary damages and injunctive relief for the School in the Lawsuit, subject to review by the School’s legal counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board decides to join the Lawsuit on the terms specified in the attached Attorney-Client Fee Contract.

2. The Board authorizes and directs Superintendent or designee to sign the attached Attorney-Client Fee Contract on behalf of the School and to take such other action as necessary to obtain monetary damages and injunctive relief for the School in the Lawsuit, subject to review by the School’s legal counsel.

3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions that conflict with the provisions of this resolution are rescinded.

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Motion Passed:

Board Secretary

The undersigned duly qualified and acting School Board Secretary hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

Board Secretary

Date: _____, 202__

ATTORNEY-CLIENT FEE CONTRACT

The ATTORNEY-CLIENT FEE CONTRACT (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between East Lansing Public Schools, whose address is 509 Burcham, East Lansing, MI, 48823 (“Client”) and Frantz Law Group, APLC, a California professional law corporation (“Attorneys” or “We”) and encompasses the following provisions:

1. **CONDITIONS.** This Agreement will not take effect, and Attorneys will have no obligation to provide legal services, until Client returns a signed copy of this Agreement.
2. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**
 - A. **CLIENT REPRESENTATIVES.** Client designates the Superintendent, or designee, as the authorized representatives to direct Attorneys and to be the primary individuals to communicate with Attorneys regarding the subject matter of Attorneys’ representation of Client under this Agreement. The designation is intended to establish a clear line of authority and to minimize potential uncertainty but not to preclude communication between Attorneys and other representatives of Client.
 - B. **ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVES.** James Frantz, William Shinoff, and Regina Bagdasarian of Frantz Law Group, APLC will be primarily responsible for the work, either performing it himself/herself or delegating it to others as may be appropriate. The Client shall have the right to approve or veto the involvement of each of the attorneys on its cases. Attorneys will be added or deleted from the list only upon prior Client approval.
3. **SCOPE AND DUTIES.** Client hires Attorneys to provide legal services in connection with pursuing claims for damages associated with the Social Media litigation, specifically Case No. 22-MD-3047-YGR in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California (“Action”). Attorneys shall provide those legal services reasonably required to represent Client, and shall take reasonable steps to keep Client informed of progress and to respond to Client’s inquiries. Client shall be truthful with Attorneys, cooperate with Attorneys, and keep Attorneys informed of developments. Attorneys will assist in negotiating liens, but will not litigate them.
4. **LEGAL SERVICES SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED.** Unless otherwise agreed in writing by Client and Attorneys, Attorneys will not provide legal services with respect to (a) defending any legal proceeding or claim against the Client commenced by any person unless such proceeding or claim is filed against the Client in the Action or (b) proceedings before any federal or state administrative or governmental agency, department, or board. With Client’s permission, however, Attorneys may elect to appear at such administrative proceedings to protect Client’s rights. If Client wishes to retain Attorneys to provide any legal services not provided under this Agreement for additional compensation, a separate written agreement between Attorneys and Client will be required.

5. FEES. Client will pay attorneys' fees to Attorneys of twenty five percent (25%) of any monetary settlement or recovery that Attorneys obtain for Client, provided that such fee will be paid only by money recovered from defendants in the Action (collectively, the "Total Fee"). Thrun, Maatsch and Nordberg, P.C., a Michigan professional corporation d/b/a Thrun Law Firm, P.C. (Thrun) will receive either twenty five percent (25%) or thirty five percent (35%) of the Total Fee, as discussed in more detail in Paragraph 6, below. The Action does not involve a claim or action for personal injury or wrongful death (see MCR 8.121(A)).

Fees shall be calculated on the basis of any settlement or recovery prior to the deduction of any expense or cost, the "Gross Recovery." Contingency fee rates are not set by law, but have been negotiated. If no recovery is made, no fees will be charged.

The term "Gross Recovery" shall include, without limitation, the then present value of any monetary payments agreed or ordered to be made by the adverse parties or their insurance carriers as a result of the Services, whether by settlement, arbitration award, court judgment (after all appeals exhausted), or otherwise. Any statutory Attorneys' fee paid by Defendants shall be included in calculating the Gross Recovery.

- (1) "Gross Recovery," if by settlement, also includes (1) the then-present value of any monetary payments to be made to the Client; and (2) any Attorneys' fees and costs recovered by the Client as part of any cause of action that provides a basis for such an award. "Recovery" may come from any source, including, but not limited to, the adverse parties to the Client and/or their insurance carriers and/or any third party, whether or not a party to formal litigation. The contingent fee is calculated by multiplying the recovery by the fee percentage. This calculation is performed on the gross recovery amount before the deduction of expenses as discussed above.

Gross Recovery does not contemplate nor include any amount or value for injunctive relief or for the value of an abatement remedy which may be obtained in a final arbitration award or court judgment.

- (2) The Client shall not be obligated to pay the Attorneys unless Attorneys are successful in collecting a monetary recovery on the Client's behalf as a result of the Services.
- (3) [Omitted].
- (4) If, by judgment, there is no money recovery and the Client receives In Kind relief, Attorneys acknowledge that Client is not obligated to pay Attorneys' fees from public funds for the value of the In Kind relief. In the event of In Kind relief, by judgment, Attorneys' sole source of recovery of contingent fees will come from a common fund or court ordered Attorney's fees.
- (5) The Client agrees the Defendant shall pay all Attorneys' fees in a settlement that includes nonmonetary value. Client understands that Attorneys have and will invest resources into prosecuting this action on behalf of the Client and agrees to make a good faith effort to include Attorneys' Fees as part of the terms of any settlement or

resolution of the Action.

It is possible that payment to the Client by the adverse parties to the Action or their insurance carrier(s) or any third-party may be deferred, as in the case of an annuity, a structured settlement, or periodic payments. In such event, gross recovery will consist of the initial lump sum payment plus the present value (as of the time of the settlement) of the total of all payments to be received thereafter. The contingent fee is calculated, as described above, by multiplying the gross recovery by the fee percentage. The Attorney's fees will be paid out of the initial lump-sum payment or, if there are multiple payments, will be split proportionally between those multiple payments.

- A. Reasonable Fee if Contingent Fee is Unenforceable. In the event that the contingent fee portion of this Agreement is determined to be unenforceable for any reason, Client agrees to pay a reasonable fee for the services rendered. If the parties are unable to agree on a reasonable fee for the services rendered, Attorneys and Client agree to follow the procedure in Paragraph 10 below; in any event, Attorney and Client agree that the fee shall not exceed twenty five percent (25%) of the gross recovery as defined in Paragraph 5.
 - B. No Fund Payments. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, including the immediately preceding paragraph, in no event will the Client be required to pay legal fees out of any fund other than the monies recovered from Defendants in this litigation. Under no circumstances shall Client general funds be obligated to satisfy the contingent Attorneys' fees as a result of this case or this contingency fee contract.
6. REFERRAL FEE. Thrun will receive twenty-five percent (25%) of the Total Fee if the Client meets at least one of the following:
- A. Is a Thrun retainer client.
 - B. Is not a Thrun retainer client, but adopts a resolution that says Thrun is referring the Client to Attorneys and that authorizes both joining the Action and entering into this Agreement.
 - C. Is not a Thrun retainer client, but Attorneys know or have reason to know that Client was referred to Attorneys for the Action by Thrun.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, Thrun will receive thirty-five percent (35%) of the Total Fee if the Client is described in A-C above and obtains Thrun's assistance with completing a questionnaire about the Action. Thrun will not bill Clients at Thrun's hourly rates for work associated with the Action.

7. COSTS AND EXPENSES. In addition to paying legal fees, Client shall reimburse Attorneys for all "costs/expenses," which includes but is not limited to the following: process servers' fees, fees fixed by law or assessed by courts or other agencies, court reporters' fees, long distance telephone calls, messenger and other delivery fees, parking, investigation expenses, consultants' fees, expert witness fees, and other similar

items, incurred by Attorneys. The costs/expenses incurred that Attorneys advance will be owed in addition to attorneys' fees and Client will reimburse those costs/expenses after Attorneys' fees have been deducted. If there is no recovery, Client will not be required to reimburse Attorneys for costs and fees. In the event a recovery is less than incurred costs/expenses, Client will not be required to reimburse Attorneys for costs/expenses, above and beyond the recovery, and fees.

SHARED EXPENSES: Client understands that Attorneys may incur certain expenses that jointly benefit multiple clients, including, for example, expenses for travel, experts, and copying. Client agrees that Attorneys shall divide such expenses equally, or pro rata, among such clients, and deduct Client's portion of those expenses from Client's share of any recovery.

FEDERAL MDL AND STATE COORDINATION COMMON BENEFIT FEES: Members of Attorneys frequently serve on plaintiffs' management or executive committees in MDL and/or the California state court coordinated proceedings and perform work which benefits Attorneys' clients as well as clients of other attorneys involved in similar litigation. As a result, the court or courts where the cases are pending may order that Attorneys are to receive additional compensation for Attorneys time and effort which has benefitted all claimants. Compensation for this work and effort, which is known as "common benefit," may be awarded to Attorneys by a court or courts directly from the assessments paid by The Client and others who have filed claims in this litigation, and will not in any way reduce the amount of fees owed under this Agreement.

8. **LIEN.** In the event any third party attempts to lien any proceeds recovered from a recovery in this matter, Client hereby grants, and agrees, **TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW**, that Attorneys hold, a first priority and superior lien on any and all proceeds recovered from Defendants in this litigation in the amount of the Attorneys' fees and costs that the Attorneys are entitled to under this Agreement. This lien right is limited to only those monies recovered from Defendants and in no way affects any other rights of the Client in any way whatsoever.
9. **DISCHARGE AND WITHDRAWAL.**
 - A. Client may discharge Attorneys at any time. After receiving notice of discharge, Attorneys shall stop services on the date and to the extent specified by the notice of discharge, and deliver to Client all evidence, files and attorney work product for the Action. This includes any computerized indices, programs and document retrieval systems created or used for the Action.
 - B. Attorneys may withdraw with Client's consent or for good cause. Good Cause includes Client's breach of this Agreement, Client's refusal to cooperate with Attorneys, or any other fact or circumstance that would render Attorneys continuing representation unlawful or unethical. Attorneys may also discharge Client if Client at any time is dishonest with Attorneys, or fails to provide relevant information to Attorneys.

10. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** ATTORNEY and CLIENT agree that should any dispute arise between them, they must be mediated first, before any litigation is filed. Specifically any and all disputes, controversies or claims arising out of, or related to this Agreement and/or ATTORNEY'S representation of CLIENT, including claims of malpractice (collectively referred to herein as "Dispute" or "Disputes"), shall be submitted to mediation with the American Arbitration Association (AAA), which mediation shall occur at the Client's central office or another location mutually agreed to by Client and Attorney. No litigation can be filed until after this agreed-upon mediation has occurred, and any litigation filed prior to conclusion of this mediation shall be subject to dismissal, pursuant to this Agreement. Client will pay one-half of the actual cost of the mediation, but each party will be responsible for his or her own attorneys' fees and preparation costs. Any litigation relating to any Dispute shall be filed in a Michigan court with jurisdiction over the Client; any litigation filed in any other court shall be dismissed, and the party initiating such litigation shall promptly pay any attorney fees and costs incurred by the other party in defending against that litigation.
11. **AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY.** Attorneys may, with prior Client approval, associate co-counsel if the Attorneys believe it advisable or necessary for the proper handling of Client's claim, and expressly authorize the Attorneys to divide any Attorneys' fees that may eventually be earned with co-counsel so associated for the handling of Client's claim. Attorneys understand that the amount of Attorneys' fees which Client pays will not be increased by the work of co-counsel associated to assist with the handling of Client's claim, and that such associated co-counsel will be paid by the Attorneys out of the Attorneys' fees Client pays to the Attorneys.
12. **DISCLAIMER OF GUARANTEE.** Nothing in this Contract and nothing in Attorneys' statements to Client will be construed as a promise or guarantee about the outcome of Client's matter. Attorneys make no such promises or guarantees. Attorneys' comments about the outcome of Client's matter are expressions of opinion only.
13. **MULTIPLE REPRESENTATIONS:** The Client understands that Attorneys do or may represent many other individuals/entities with actual or potential litigation claims. Attorneys' representation of multiple claimants at the same time may create certain actual or potential conflicts of interest in that the interests and objectives of each client individually on certain issues are, or may become, inconsistent with the interests and objectives of the other. Attorneys are governed by specific rules and regulations relating to Attorneys professional responsibility in Attorneys representation of clients, and especially where conflicts of interest may arise from Attorneys representation of multiple clients against the same or similar Defendants, Attorneys are required to advise Attorneys' clients of any actual or potential conflicts of interest and obtain their informed written consent to Attorneys representation when actual, present, or potential conflicts of interest exist. By signing this Agreement, the Client is acknowledging that they have been advised of the potential conflicts of interest which may be or are associated with Attorneys representation of the Client and other multiple claimants and that the Client nevertheless wants the Attorneys to represent the Client, and that the Client consents to Attorneys representation of others in connection with the litigation.

Attorneys strongly advise the Client, however, that the Client remains completely free to seek other legal advice at any time even after the Client signs this Agreement.

14. **AGGREGATE SETTLEMENTS:** Often times in cases where Attorneys represent multiple clients in similar litigation, the opposing parties or Defendants attempt to settle or otherwise resolve Attorneys' cases in a group or groups, by making a single settlement offer to settle a number of cases simultaneously. There exists a potential conflict of interest whenever a lawyer represents multiple clients in a settlement of this type because it necessitates choices concerning the allocation of limited settlement amounts among the multiple clients. However, if all clients consent, a group settlement can be accomplished and a single offer can be fairly distributed among the clients by assigning settlement amounts based upon the strengths and weaknesses of each case, the relative nature, severity and extent of injuries, and individual case evaluations. In the event of a group or aggregate settlement proposal, Attorneys may implement a settlement program, overseen by a referee or special master, who may be appointed by a court, designed to ensure consistency and fairness for all claimants, and which will assign various settlement values and amounts to each client's case depending upon the facts and circumstances of each individual case. The Client authorizes us to enter into and engage in group settlement discussions and agreements which may include the Client's individual claims. Although the Client authorizes us to engage in such group settlement discussions and agreements, the Client will still retain the right to approve, and Attorneys are required to obtain the Client's approval of, any settlement of the Client's case.
15. **EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM.** This Agreement will take effect upon execution by Client and Attorneys.
16. **COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument. Facsimile or pdf versions of this Agreement shall have the same force and effect as signature of the original.
17. **ASSIGNMENT:** Neither party shall have the right to assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement to any person or entity without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
18. **SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS:** This Agreement shall bind and benefit the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.
19. **FULL AND FINAL AGREEMENT:** This Agreement is the full and final agreement. Any amendments to the Agreement must be in writing and signed by the parties.
20. **GOVERNING LAW.** This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of Michigan.
21. **AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:** Each individual signing below represents that the individual is duly authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of that individual's respective party as listed below.

Frantz Law Group, APLC

Dated: _____, 202__

Frantz Signature: _____

Frantz Print Name: _____

Dated: _____, 202__

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

School Client Name: _____

Position of Signatory: _____