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20 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 21 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

22 DANIELA ROBINSON,
 23
 24 Plaintiff,

25 v.

26 METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE
 27 COMPANY,
 28 Defendant.

29 METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE
 30 COMPANY,

31 Counterclaimant,

32 v.

33 DANIELA ROBINSON,
 34 Counterdefendant.

CASE NO. 12-cv-01373 JAM (AC)

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER



1 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

2 Subject to the approval of this Court, the parties hereby stipulate to the following
3 protective order:

4 **1. Purposes and Limitations**

5 Discovery proceedings in this action may involve the production and disclosure of
6 trade secrets or other confidential and proprietary commercial or financial information of
7 MetLife for which protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other
8 than prosecuting or defending this litigation may be warranted. The parties acknowledge
9 that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all responses to discovery, and that the
10 protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information
11 or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under applicable legal principles. The
12 parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 8 below, that this Stipulated Protective
13 Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Local Rule 141 sets
14 forth the procedures to be followed when a party seeks permission from the Court to file
15 material under seal.

16 **2. Definitions**

17 For purposes of this Order, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

18 2.1. "Challenging Party" shall mean and refer to a Party that challenges a
19 designation of information under this Order;

20 2.2. "Confidential Information" shall mean information that qualifies for
21 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c);

22 2.3. "Designating Party" shall mean and refer to a Party that designates
23 information that it produces in responses to discovery as "CONFIDENTIAL";

24 2.4. "Discovery Material" shall mean all information, regardless of the
25 medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other
26 things, testimony and transcripts), that are produced or generated in responses to discovery
27 in this action;

28 2.5. "Expert" shall mean and refer to a person with specialized knowledge or

1 experience in a matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel
2 to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this action;

3 2.6. "Party" shall mean and refer to any party to this action, including all of its
4 officers, directors, employees, consultants, attorneys, affiliates and subsidiaries (and their
5 support staffs);

6 2.7. "Producing Party" shall mean and refer to a Party that produces
7 Discovery Material in this action;

8 2.8. "Professional Vendors" shall mean and refer to persons or entities that
9 provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing
10 exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
11 and their employees and subcontractors;

12 2.9. "Protected Material" means any Discovery Material that is designated as
13 "CONFIDENTIAL";

14 2.10. "Receiving Party" means a Party that receives Discovery Material from a
15 Producing Party.

16 **3. Scope**

17 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover (a) any information
18 that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the
19 public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a
20 violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public record through trial or otherwise;
21 and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to the disclosure or obtained by the
22 Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained the information lawfully and
23 under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material at
24 trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

25 **4. Duration**

26 This Order shall continue to be binding throughout this action, including any appeal
27 thereof. This Order, as an agreement, shall remain in effect until all Confidential Information
28 is returned to the Producing Party or destroyed, as provided below. Within thirty (30) days

1 after termination of this action by dismissal, final non-appealable judgment or otherwise, each
2 Party shall return to counsel for the Producing Party all Protected Material, including all
3 copies, prints, excerpts, and other reproductions thereof, however generated or maintained. In
4 the alternative, counsel for any Party receiving Protected Material may supervise the
5 destruction thereof, including all copies, prints, excerpts, and other reproductions thereof,
6 however generated or maintained. Counsel shall then advise counsel for the Producing Party
7 in writing that all Protected Material, including all copies, prints, excerpts, and other
8 reproductions thereof, however generated or maintained have been destroyed or returned.
9 Notwithstanding the foregoing, counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy (in electronic
10 form or otherwise) of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts,
11 legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work
12 product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such material contain Protected
13 Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain
14 subject to the parties' agreement for confidentiality as set forth herein.

15 **5. Designating Protected Material**

16 By designating a document, testimony, or information derived therefrom as
17 "CONFIDENTIAL", the Designating Party certifies to the Court and other Parties that there is
18 a good faith basis both in law and in fact for the designation within the meaning of Federal
19 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(g).

20 5.1. Documents

21 All confidentiality designations shall be made by the Designating Party at the time
22 documents are produced by affixing the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that
23 contains Confidential Information. If only a portion or portions of material on a page qualifies
24 for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portions (e.g., by
25 making appropriate markings in the margins). Affixing the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" on the
26 cover of any multi-page document shall designate all pages of the document as confidential,
27 unless otherwise indicated by the Producing Party.

28 5.2. Deposition Testimony

1 Testimony taken at a deposition may be designated as confidential by making a
2 statement to that effect on the record before the close of the deposition or at some reasonable
3 time thereafter. Arrangements shall be made with the court reporter taking and transcribing
4 the deposition to separately bind such portions of the transcript containing information
5 designated as confidential, and to label such portions appropriately.

6 5.3. Inadvertent Failures to Designate

7 An inadvertent failure to designate qualified information does not waive the
8 Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely
9 correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that
10 the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

11 **6. Challenging Confidential Designations**

12 Any Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt
13 challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid
14 foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption
15 or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality
16 designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is
17 disclosed.

18 The Challenging Party shall initiate the challenge process by providing written notice
19 of each designation it is challenging (making specific reference therein to this section of the
20 Order) and describing the basis for each challenge. The parties shall then meet and confer in
21 good faith in an effort to resolve the dispute. If the Parties are unable to resolve a challenge
22 without court intervention, either party may file a motion for a further protective order or a
23 motion challenging the confidentiality designation at issue. All parties shall continue to
24 afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the
25 Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

26 **7. Access to and Use of Protected Material**

27 A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is produced by another Party in
28 connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this

1 litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and
2 under the conditions described in this Order.

3 Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designated
4 Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only
5 to:

6 (a) any Party;

7 (b) counsel for any Party, including their paralegals and clerical staff, consultants, and
8 in-house counsel;

9 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is
10 reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have first signed the "Acknowledgment and
11 Agreement to be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

12 (d) the Court and its personnel;

13 (e) court reporters (and their staff) engaged for depositions, hearings or trial;

14 (f) Professional Vendors who have first signed the "Acknowledgment and
15 Agreement to be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

16 (g) Reinsurance companies and their employees who have first signed the
17 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

18 (h) witnesses in this action to the extent necessary for the conduct of this litigation
19 who have first signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to be Bound" that is attached
20 hereto as Exhibit A;

21 (i) the author(s) or any recipient of the document or the original source of the
22 information in any document or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or
23 knew the information; and

24 (j) third-party claim monitoring companies who have first signed the
25 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

26 **8. Filing Protected Material**

27 Unless written permission is received from the Designating Party, a Party desiring to
28 file Protected Material with the Court in this action must first seek, after appropriate notice to

1 the Designating Party, an order from the Court allowing the filing of the specific Protected
2 Material at issue under seal, in accordance with Local Rule 141. If a Receiving Party's
3 request to file Protected Material under seal is denied by the Court in whole or in part, then
4 the Receiving Party may file in the public record all of such Protected Material, or such
5 portion thereof as to which a sealing order was not granted.

6 **9. Protected Material Subpoenaed or Ordered Produced in Other Litigation**

7 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
8 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
9 "CONFIDENTIAL", that Party shall (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party,
10 which notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or order; and (b) promptly notify in
11 writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some
12 or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order,
13 which notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order. The Designating
14 Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in the court that issued the
15 subpoena or order of its confidential material, and nothing in these provisions should be
16 construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful
17 directive from another court.

18 **10. Right to Further Relief**

19 Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any Party to seek its modification by the
20 Court in the future. This Order and Agreement may be enforced by an Order of specific
21 performance, as well as any claim for damages.

22 **11. Right to Assert Other Objections**

23 By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order, no Party waives any right it
24 otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any
25 ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right
26 to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
27 Order.

28 **12. Showing That Protection Should Be Addressed By Court Order**

1 A court order should be used to protect the parties' Confidential Information than a
2 private agreement for the following reasons:

3 1) A court order provides a more efficient enforcement mechanism for both parties
4 and non-parties to the litigation should confidential documents be used in contravention of
5 this agreement;

6 2) A court order better controls document dissemination, particularly if non-parties
7 receive the information without agreeing to the terms of the protective order;

8 3) The protective order also provides a procedure for the Court to rule on disputes
9 concerning designations of Confidential Information; and

10 4) The protective order will also serve the interests of judicial economy because it will
11 minimize the need for the parties to bring discovery motions concerning documents designated
12 as "CONFIDENTIAL."

13 DATED: January 21, 2014

LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL S. GLASS

14 By: /s/ Daniel S. Glass (as authorized 1/21/14)

15 DANIEL S. GLASS
16 Attorneys for Plaintiff
17 DANIELA ROBINSON

18 DATED: January 21, 2014

SEDGWICK LLP

19 By: /s/ Rebecca A. Hull

20 REBECCA A. HULL
21 MARK J. HANCOCK
22 Attorneys for Defendant METROPOLITAN LIFE
23 INSURANCE COMPANY

24 Based upon the Stipulation of the Parties, IT IS SO ORDERED.

25 DATED: 1/21/2014

/s/ John A. Mendez

26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have
read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United
States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Sacramento Division, on _____
[date] in the case entitled *Daniela Robinson v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company*, 12-cv-
01373 JAM (CKD). I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated
Protective Order. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or
item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict
compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Eastern District of California, Sacramento Division, for the purpose of enforcing the terms of
this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination
of this action.

Date: _____
City and State where sworn and signed: _____
Printed name: _____
Signature: _____

