

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

IN RE WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC. SECURITIES LITIGATION	X : : X	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 1:07-cv-00862-CAP
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NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION

This Notice is sent to you because you may have been a shareholder of Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. (now known as Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.) (“Wells REIT”). The purpose of the Notice is to advise you that a lawsuit is pending on behalf of shareholders who were entitled to vote on the proposals contained in a proxy statement relating to the “Internalization” of certain advisory and management functions. This is not a notice that the action is being settled and there are no claim forms to fill out. You are receiving this Notice because your interests could be affected by the lawsuit.

- The Plaintiff claims that Wells REIT, its board of directors, and the Advisor (as defined below), all of which are Defendants in the case, solicited votes in favor of the Internalization without informing shareholders of proposals made by a third party. Defendants deny the claims in the lawsuit. The parties disagree on liability and damage issues. See Question 3 below for a more detailed explanation.

- The Court has certified this case to proceed as a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3). If a judgment is ultimately obtained under Rule 23(b)(2), it will apply to all Wells REIT stockholders who were entitled to vote on the Proxy. If a judgment is obtained under Rule 23(b)(3), it will apply to all Wells REIT stockholders who were entitled to vote on the Proxy except those who request exclusion, as more fully explained below.

- Your legal rights are affected whether you act or don’t act. Read this notice carefully.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AT THIS TIME	
WITH RESPECT TO THE 23(b)(2) CLASS CERTIFICATION	<p>NO ACTION REQUIRED: If you are a member of the Class, you cannot exclude yourself from the 23(b)(2) aspects of the Action. You will be bound by the result of the 23(b)(2) claim. That means that if relief is granted or denied to the Class under Rule 23(b)(2), you will participate in any possible injunctive-type recovery or benefit obtained. You will receive nothing if the claim is unsuccessful.</p>
WITH RESPECT TO THE 23(b)(3) CLASS CERTIFICATION	<p>DO NOTHING: You will be bound by the result of the Rule 23(b)(3) claim. If the claim is successful and if you are an eligible member of the Class, you may share in any possible recovery or benefit from any other relief obtained. You will receive nothing if the claim is unsuccessful.</p> <p>EXCLUDE YOURSELF (“OPT OUT”): If you exclude yourself from the Class, you will not be bound by the results of the Rule 23(b)(3) claims. However, by excluding yourself, if the claims are successful, you will not share in any possible recovery or benefit from any other relief obtained. Excluding yourself is the only option that allows you to maintain your own action (should you choose to do so) based on the claims brought pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) in this case.</p>

- The right to exclude yourself (“opt out”) from this lawsuit is explained in this Notice. **The deadline to opt out is December 22, 2011.**

- Further information regarding this lawsuit may be obtained by contacting Plaintiff’s Co-Lead Counsel:

Nicholas E. Chemicles
 Kimberly M. Donaldson
 CHIMICLES & TIKELLIS LLP
 One Haverford Centre
 361 W. Lancaster Avenue
 Haverford, Pennsylvania 19041
 (610) 642-8500

Lawrence A. Sucharow
 Joseph Sternberg
 LABATON SUCHAROW LLP
 140 Broadway
 New York, New York 10005
 (212) 907-0700

Gregory E. Keller
 Robert W. Killorin
 Krissi T. Gore
 CHITWOOD HARLEY HARNES LLP
 2300 Promenade II
 1230 Peachtree Street, NE
 Atlanta, Georgia 30309
 (404) 873-3900

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BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I get this Notice?

You or someone in your family may have been a shareholder of Wells REIT and entitled to vote on the proposals in Wells REIT’s Schedule 14A Proxy Statement dated February 26, 2007, as amended or supplemented thereafter (“Proxy”). Those entitled to vote on the Proxy’s proposals were Wells REIT’s shareholders of record at the close of business on February 20, 2007. The Court in charge of the lawsuit is the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, and the lawsuit is known as *In re Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation*, Civil Action No. 1:07-cv-00862-CAP. U.S. District Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr. is in charge of this class action. The person who sued is called the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff in this lawsuit is Washtenaw County Employees’ Retirement System. The “Defendants,” who have been sued by Plaintiff, are: Wells REIT; Wells

Real Estate Funds, Inc.; Wells Capital, Inc., Wells Management Company, Inc., Wells Advisory Services I, LLC, Wells Real Estate Advisory Services, Inc., and Wells Government Services, Inc. (collectively the “Advisor”); and the individual Defendants Leo F. Wells III, Douglas P. Williams, Randall D. Fretz, Donald A. Miller, Michael R. Buchanan, Richard W. Carpenter, William H. Keogler, Jr., Donald S. Moss, Neil H. Strickland, Bud Carter, and W. Wayne Woody. In February, 2010, Randall D. Fretz and the claims against him were dismissed with prejudice. The Court authorized this notice because the law requires that you be informed about this class action lawsuit and about all of your options. This Notice explains the lawsuit, your legal rights, and what you must do to preserve your legal rights.

2. Who is a Member of the Class?

By Order of September 16, 2009, the Court has certified the following Class:

All shareholders of Wells REIT (including their heirs, successors, and assigns) who were entitled to vote on the proposals in Wells REIT’s Schedule 14A Proxy Statement dated February 26, 2007, as amended or supplemented, excluding the Defendants, the officers and Directors of Defendants at all relevant times, members of each Individual Defendant’s immediate family, any entity in which any Defendant has a controlling interest, and the legal affiliates, representatives, heirs, controlling persons, successors, and predecessors in interest or assigns of any such excluded party.

3. What is this lawsuit about?

Plaintiff filed a Complaint against Defendants and alleged that the Class was injured by Defendants’ omission of certain material information from the Proxy, through which the Defendants solicited and obtained shareholder votes to approve the Internalization in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”). Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants failed to supplement the Proxy to disclose the existence of proposals made by a third party to purchase all of the shares of Wells REIT, as well as the fact that the third party placed a higher value on the shares if the Internalization was not consummated. The price at which Wells REIT issued shares to acquire the Advisor in the Internalization was less than what the third party offered to pay for the shares.

Defendants deny all of Plaintiff’s allegations and claims. Defendants contend that the lawsuit has no merit and the evidence does not support Plaintiff’s claims. Defendants deny they engaged in any misconduct.

4. Why is this lawsuit a class action?

In a class action, one or more persons or entities called Class Representatives sue on behalf of all persons and/or entities who have similar claims. These persons and/or entities are referred to collectively as a Class, or individually, as Class Members. In a class action, one court resolves all of the issues for all Class Members, except for any Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class, when permitted by law.

5. What is the current status of the lawsuit?

The lawsuit was filed in March 2007. Following amendment of the initial complaint, Defendants sought to dismiss all of the claims in the lawsuit, and in two orders dated March 31, 2008 and May 9, 2008, the Court granted in part, and denied in part, the Defendants’ motion to dismiss. The Plaintiff filed the operative Complaint on April 21, 2008, which contains the proxy disclosure claims that were sustained by the Court. In a September 16, 2009 Order, the Court certified this lawsuit as a class action. The Plaintiff and Defendants conducted fact and expert discovery, and both parties filed summary judgment motions. On August 2, 2010, the Court denied Defendants’ motion for summary judgment and granted Plaintiff’s motion for partial summary judgment in part and denied it in part. Specifically, the Court concluded as a matter of law that: all Defendants solicited proxies from the shareholders; the Proxy was an “essential link” in accomplishing the Internalization; the likelihood of the third party proposals coming to fruition is irrelevant in evaluating the materiality of the third party proposals; the third party proposals were not subjective and unreliable “soft information”; and if a jury decides the third party proposals are material, the existence of Defendants’ negligence and an injury to shareholders will have been established. The Court determined that a jury should decide whether the third party proposals were material, and if so, the extent of the harm to the shareholders caused by the failure of the Proxy to disclose them. Because of the Court’s rulings, Plaintiff dismissed its claims brought pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act on February 8, 2011. The parties filed motions seeking to exclude certain evidence from trial; the motions are pending. No trial date has been set.

Important case documents and updates about the status of the lawsuit can be found at www.wells.hrsclaims.com.

6. What do I gain if I remain in the Class?

The Rule 23(b)(2) claim seeking injunctive relief will proceed on behalf of all shareholders. By law, you cannot exclude yourself from the Rule 23(b)(2) Class.

Eligible shareholders will also be a member of the Rule 23(b)(3) Class, which seeks the award of money damages to be paid to the members of the Rule 23(b)(3) Class, unless you choose to exclude yourself. By remaining a member of the Rule 23(b)(3) Class, you may benefit from any relief obtained in the event the lawsuit is resolved through a judgment in the Class's favor or through a settlement, you may share in any possible recovery or you may benefit from any other relief obtained through the judgment or settlement if at that time you submit a properly completed proof of claim. (There is no proof of claim form to be submitted at this time). By remaining in the Rule 23(b)(3) Class, you would also have the right to object to any proposed settlement if you believed that it were inadequate. If the lawsuit is resolved in the Class's favor, an additional notice explaining the resolution and how you may share in any possible recovery or in any benefit from any relief obtained through the judgment or settlement, will be provided to the Class, together with any necessary proof of claim form. If the lawsuit is not resolved in the Class's favor, you will receive nothing.

7. What am I giving up to stay in the Rule 23(b)(3) Class?

If you remain in the Rule 23(b)(3) Class, you agree that you will not also bring your own separate action alleging similar claims.

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE RULE 23(B)(3) CLASS

8. If I want to exclude myself from the Rule 23(b)(3) Class how can I do so?

If you want to preserve your right to sue or continue to sue Defendants on your own regarding the legal issues alleged on behalf of the Rule 23(b)(3) Class (i.e., the money damages claim), then you must exclude yourself from this class action — sometimes referred to as “opting out” of the Class. You should keep in mind that, if you have not already commenced your own action, you may be barred from doing so by the applicable statute of limitations. You should consult your own lawyer before excluding yourself to commence a separate action.

To exclude yourself from the Rule 23(b)(3) claim, you must send a letter by mail stating that you want to be excluded from the Rule 23(b)(3) claim in the *In re Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation*, Civil Action No. 1:07-cv-00862-CAP. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and your signature, along with the name in which the Wells REIT shares were held and information regarding your purchases and/or sales of the shares. You must mail your exclusion request, postmarked no later than December 22, 2011, to:

Notice Administrator
In re Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation
c/o Heffler, Radetich & Saitta LLP
P.O. Box 470
Philadelphia, PA 19105-0470

You cannot exclude yourself on the phone or by e-mail.

9. If I do not exclude myself from the Rule 23(b)(3) Class, can I sue Defendants for the same thing later?

By remaining a member of the Class, you give up the right to bring your own action suing Defendants for claims related to the Proxy and the Internalization. If you have a pending lawsuit, speak to your lawyer in that case immediately. You may need to exclude yourself from the Rule 23(b)(3) Class to continue your own lawsuit. Remember, the exclusion deadline is December 22, 2011.

10. If I exclude myself, can I get money if there is a verdict or settlement in favor of the Rule 23(b)(3) Class?

No. If you exclude yourself, you cannot share in any possible recovery or in any benefit from any relief obtained if the lawsuit is resolved through a verdict in favor of the Plaintiff or a settlement. If you elect to opt out in order to bring your own suit, please be advised that important deadlines to your right to sue may soon expire or may have already expired. You may wish to consult a lawyer immediately to preserve your rights.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

11. Do I have a lawyer in this lawsuit?

The Court approved the law firms of Chitwood Harley Harnes LLP, Chimicles & Tikellis LLP, and Labaton Sucharow LLP to represent you and the other Class Members. The lawyers in these firms are called Plaintiff's Counsel or Class Counsel. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. If you elect to exclude yourself from the lawsuit, Class Counsel cannot represent you.

12. How will the lawyers be paid?

Plaintiff's Counsel have spent, and will continue to spend, considerable time litigating this lawsuit on a contingent fee basis and have advanced, and will continue to advance, expenses with the expectation that if the lawsuit is successful, they would receive fees and be reimbursed for their expenses out of whatever may be recovered in the verdict or settlement. If the lawsuit is resolved in favor of the Plaintiff and the Class, Plaintiff's Counsel will ask the Court to award reasonable attorneys' fees and reimburse their expenses. Amounts awarded by the Court as attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses may be paid out of any settlement funds, or may be paid by one or more Defendants. Class members will be informed of a fee request by Plaintiff's Counsel and will have an opportunity to comment or object. If the action is unsuccessful, Counsel will not be paid fees nor have their expenses reimbursed. You will not be personally responsible for attorneys' fees or costs under any circumstances. There will be no cost to you except for a deduction from your share in any possible recovery or in any benefit from any relief obtained if the lawsuit is resolved in favor of the Class.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

13. What if I would like to continue to be a member of the Rule 23(b)(3) Class?

If you would like to continue to be a member of the Rule 23(b)(3) Class you do not have to do anything at this time. If your address changes you should notify the Notice Administrator at the address listed for the Notice Administrator elsewhere in this Notice.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

14. How do I obtain more information about the lawsuit?

You can: (1) call 1-800-379-6239 toll free; (2) write to Notice Administrator at: In re Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation, c/o Heffler, Radetich & Saitta LLP, P.O. Box 470, Philadelphia, PA 19105-0470; or, (3) visit the website at www.wells.hrsclaims.com, where you will find answers to common questions about the lawsuit, plus other information to help you determine whether you are a Class Member. You may also review any documents that are available through the Court's electronic filing system.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SECURITIES BROKERS AND OTHER NOMINEES

If you purchased Wells REIT securities as nominee for a beneficial owner who held such securities as of February 20, 2007, then within ten (10) days after you receive this Notice, you are requested either to: (a) send a copy of this Notice by first-class mail to all such beneficial owners; or (b) provide a list, electronically if possible, of the names and addresses of such beneficial owners to the Notice Administrator:

Notice Administrator
In re Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation
c/o Heffler, Radetich & Saitta LLP
P.O. Box 470
Philadelphia, PA 19105-0470

If you choose option (a) above, you may request enough Notices from the Notice Administrator (at no charge) to complete your mailing. If you choose option (b) above, the Notices will be mailed by the Notice Administrator. You may seek reimbursement of your reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with these instructions, subject to approval of Plaintiff's Counsel or the Court. All communications concerning this matter should be addressed to the Notice Administrator.

INQUIRIES

All inquiries concerning this Notice, or any other questions by Class Members should be directed to the Notice Administrator or the Attorneys listed above.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT REGARDING THIS NOTICE

DATED: September 23, 2011

BY ORDER OF THE DISTRICT COURT:
CHARLES A. PANNELL, JR., JUDGE

Notice Administrator
In re Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation
c/o Heffler, Radetich & Saitta LLP
P.O. Box 470
Philadelphia, PA 19105-0470

PLEASE FORWARD

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PLEASE FORWARD—IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE