

**FILED**  
U. S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS

OCT 26 2018

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS**

**JAMES W. MCGORMACK, CLERK**  
By: [Signature]  
DEP CLERK

JORDAN COLBERT, Individually and On  
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

BANK OZK, GEORGE GLEASON, and  
GREGORY MCKINNEY,

Defendants.

Case No.: 4:18-cv-793-Jm

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR  
VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL  
SECURITIES LAWS**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

This case is assigned to District Judge Moody  
and to Magistrate Judge Volpe

Plaintiff Jordan Colbert (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, alleges the following upon information and belief, except as to those allegations concerning Plaintiff, which are alleged upon personal knowledge. Plaintiff’s information and belief is based upon, among other things, his counsel’s investigation, which includes without limitation: (a) review and analysis of regulatory filings made by Bank OZK (“Bank OZK” or the “Company”) with the United States (“U.S.”) Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”); (b) review and analysis of press releases and media reports issued by and disseminated by Bank OZK; and (c) review of other publicly available information concerning Bank OZK.

### **NATURE OF THE ACTION AND OVERVIEW**

1. This is a class action on behalf of persons and entities that acquired Bank OZK securities between February 19, 2016 and October 18, 2018, inclusive (the “Class Period”), seeking to pursue remedies under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”).

2. Bank OZK is a retail and commercial bank with several subsidiaries focused on investment securities, development of real estate, and ownership of private aircraft. It was known as Bank of the Ozarks until July 16, 2018.

3. On October 18, 2018, the Company reported that it had “incurred combined charge-offs of \$45.5 million on two Real Estate Specialties Group credits” that had previously been classified as substandard.

4. On this news, the Company’s share price fell \$9.33 per share, more than 26%, to close at \$25.52 per share on October 19, 2018, on unusually heavy trading volume.

5. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants made materially false and/or misleading statements, as well as failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company’s business, operations, and prospects. Specifically, Defendants failed to disclose to investors: (1) that the

Company lacked adequate internal controls to assess credit risk; (2) that, as a result, certain of the Company's loans posed an increased risk of loss; (3) that certain substandard loans were reasonably likely to lead to charge-offs; and (4) that, as a result of the foregoing, Defendants' positive statements about the Company's business, operations, and prospects were materially misleading and/or lacked a reasonable basis.

6. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7. The claims asserted herein arise under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).

8. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa).

9. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa(c)). Substantial acts in furtherance of the alleged fraud or the effects of the fraud have occurred in this Judicial District. Many of the acts charged herein, including the dissemination of materially false and/or misleading information, occurred in substantial part in this Judicial District. In addition, the Company's principal executive offices are located in this district.

10. In connection with the acts, transactions, and conduct alleged herein, Defendants directly and indirectly used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including the United States mail, interstate telephone communications, and the facilities of a national securities exchange.

## **PARTIES**

11. Plaintiff Jordan Colbert, as set forth in the accompanying certification, incorporated by reference herein, purchased Bank OZK securities during the Class Period, and suffered damages as a result of the federal securities law violations and false and/or misleading statements and/or material omissions alleged herein.

12. Defendant Bank OZK is incorporated under the laws of Arkansas with its principal executive offices located in Little Rock, Arkansas. Bank OZK's common stock trades on the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol "OZK." It was known as Bank of the Ozarks and traded under the symbol "OZRK" until July 16, 2018.

13. Defendant George Gleason ("Gleason") was the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company at all relevant times.

14. Defendant Gregory McKinney ("McKinney") was the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer of the Company at all relevant times.

15. Defendants Gleason and McKinney, (collectively the "Individual Defendants"), because of their positions with the Company, possessed the power and authority to control the contents of the Company's reports to the SEC, press releases and presentations to securities analysts, money and portfolio managers and institutional investors, *i.e.*, the market. The Individual Defendants were provided with copies of the Company's reports and press releases alleged herein to be misleading prior to, or shortly after, their issuance and had the ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or cause them to be corrected. Because of their positions and access to material non-public information available to them, the Individual Defendants knew that the adverse facts specified herein had not been disclosed to, and were being concealed from, the public, and that the positive representations which were being made were then materially false and/or misleading. The Individual Defendants are liable for the false statements pleaded

herein.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

### **Background**

16. Bank OZK is a retail and commercial bank with several subsidiaries focused on investment securities, development of real estate, and ownership of private aircraft. It was known as Bank of the Ozarks until July 16, 2018.

### **Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period**

17. The Class Period begins on February 19, 2016. On that day, the Company filed its annual report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2015 (the “2015 10-K”). Therein, the Company, reported that net income was \$182.3 million and substandard loans was \$25.8 million. The Company indicated that the substandard category of loans and leases “are characterized by deterioration in quality exhibited by a number of weaknesses requiring corrective action and posing risk of some loss.”

18. The 2015 10-K also disclosed certain risk factors that affected the Company’s operations. The Company reported, in relevant part:

**If we do not properly manage our credit risk, our business could be seriously harmed.**

There are substantial risks inherent in making any loan or lease, including, but not limited to –

- risks resulting from changes in economic and industry conditions;
- risks inherent in dealing with individual borrowers;
- risks inherent from uncertainties as to the future value of collateral; and
- the risk of non-payment of loans and leases

Although we attempt to minimize our credit risk through prudent loan and lease underwriting procedures and by monitoring concentrations of our loans and leases, there can be no assurance that these underwriting and monitoring procedures will reduce these risks. Moreover, as we continue to expand into new

markets, credit administration and loan and lease underwriting policies and procedures may need to be adapted to local conditions. The inability to properly manage our credit risk or appropriately adapt our credit administration and loan and lease underwriting policies and procedures to local market conditions or changing economic circumstances could have an adverse effect on our allowance and provision for loan and lease losses and our financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

19. On April 11, 2016, the Company issued a press release to announce its first quarter 2016 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$51.7 million.

20. On May 6, 2016, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2016 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶19. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had decreased to \$20.93 million.

21. On July 11, 2016, the Company issued a press release to announce its second quarter 2016 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$54.5 million.

22. On August 8, 2016, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2016 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶21. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had decreased to \$16.97 million.

23. On October 11, 2016, the Company issued a press release to announce its third quarter 2016 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$76.0 million.

24. On November 8, 2016, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2016 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶23. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had decreased to \$16.65

million.

25. On January 17, 2017, the Company issued a press release to announce its fourth quarter and full year 2016 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$87.8 million and for the year was \$270.0 million.

26. On March 1, 2017, the Company filed an annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶25. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had increased to \$23.8 million.

27. On April 11, 2017, the Company issued a press release to announce its first quarter 2017 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$89.2 million.

28. On May 5, 2017, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶27. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had decreased to \$20.66 million.

29. On July 12, 2017, the Company issued a press release to announce its second quarter 2017 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$90.5 million.

30. On August 8, 2017, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶29. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had increased to \$52.76 million.

31. On October 11, 2017, the Company issued a press release to announce its third quarter 2017 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for

the quarter was \$96 million.

32. On November 7, 2017, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2017 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶31. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had decreased to \$51.4 million.

33. On January 16, 2018, the Company issued a press release to announce its fourth quarter and full year 2017 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$146.2 million and for the year was \$421.9 million.

34. On February 27, 2018, the Company filed an annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶33. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had increased to \$85.05 million.

35. On April 12, 2018, the Company issued a press release to announce its first quarter 2018 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$113.1 million.

36. On May 8, 2018, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release identified in ¶35. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had decreased to \$84.96 million.

37. On July 11, 2018, the Company issued a press release to announce its second quarter 2018 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated that net income for the quarter was \$114.8 million.

38. On August 7, 2018, the Company filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2018 that affirmed the financial results reported in the press release



identified in ¶37. The Company also reported that its substandard loans had increased to \$92.94 million.

39. The above statements identified in ¶¶17-38 were materially false and/or misleading, and failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business, operations, and prospects. Specifically, Defendants failed to disclose to investors: (1) that the Company lacked adequate internal controls to assess credit risk; (2) that, as a result, certain of the Company's loans posed an increased risk of loss; (3) that certain substandard loans were reasonably likely to lead to charge-offs; and (4) that, as a result of the foregoing, Defendants' positive statements about the Company's business, operations, and prospects were materially misleading and/or lacked a reasonable basis

**Disclosures at the End of the Class Period**

40. On October 18, 2018, the Company issued a press release to announce its third quarter 2018 financial results. Therein, the Company, in relevant part, stated:

Bank OZK (the "Bank") (Nasdaq: OZK) today announced that net income for the third quarter of 2018 was \$74.2 million, a 22.7% decrease from the third quarter of 2017. Diluted earnings per common share for the third quarter of 2018 were \$0.58, a 22.7% decrease from the third quarter of 2017.

\* \* \*

During the third quarter of 2018, the Bank incurred combined charge-offs of \$45.5 million on two Real Estate Specialties Group ("RESG") credits. These two unrelated projects are in South Carolina and North Carolina, have been in the Bank's portfolio since 2007 and 2008, and were previously classified as substandard. The combined balance of these credits, after the charge-offs, is \$20.6 million.

\* \* \*

The Bank's annualized net charge-off ratio for non-purchased loans was 1.32% for the third quarter of 2018 compared to 0.08% for the third quarter of 2017, and it was 0.49% for the first nine months of 2018 compared to 0.06% for the first nine months of 2017. The Bank's annualized net charge-off ratio for all loans was 1.14% for the third quarter of 2018 compared to 0.09% for the third quarter of 2017, and it was 0.43% for the first nine months of 2018 compared to 0.08% for the first nine months of 2017.

The Bank's provision for loan losses totaled \$41.9 million for the third quarter and \$57.1 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$7.8 million for the third quarter and \$18.8 million for the first nine months of 2017. The increase in the Bank's provision expense for the third quarter and the first nine months of 2018 was primarily due to the charge-offs on the two RESG credits and the associated recalibration of the allowance for loan losses.

The Bank's allowance for loan losses for its non-purchased loans was \$96.6 million, or 0.67% of total non-purchased loans, at September 30, 2018 compared to \$85.2 million, or 0.71% of total non-purchased loans, at September 30, 2017. The Bank had \$1.6 million of allowance for loan losses for its purchased loans at both September 30, 2018 and 2017.

41. On October 19, 2018, the Company held a conference call with analysts and investors. During the call, Defendant Gleason stated that one credit became substandard in the second quarter of 2017 and the other in the fourth quarter of 2017.

42. On this news, the Company's share price fell \$9.33 per share, more than 26%, to close at \$25.52 per share on October 19, 2018, on unusually heavy trading volume.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

43. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a class, consisting of all persons and entities that acquired Bank OZK securities between February 19, 2016 and October 18, 2018, inclusive, and who were damaged thereby (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of the Company, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns, and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest.

44. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, Bank OZK's common shares actively traded on the NASDAQ. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can only be ascertained through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are at least hundreds or thousands of members in the proposed Class. Millions of Bank OZK common stock

were traded publicly during the Class Period on the NASDAQ. Record owners and other members of the Class may be identified from records maintained by Bank OZK or its transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail, using the form of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class actions.

45. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class as all members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of federal law that is complained of herein.

46. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation.

47. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

(a) whether the federal securities laws were violated by Defendants' acts as alleged herein;

(b) whether statements made by Defendants to the investing public during the Class Period omitted and/or misrepresented material facts about the business, operations, and prospects of Bank OZK; and

(c) to what extent the members of the Class have sustained damages and the proper measure of damages.

48. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as

a class action.

**UNDISCLOSED ADVERSE FACTS**

49. The market for Bank OZK's securities was open, well-developed and efficient at all relevant times. As a result of these materially false and/or misleading statements, and/or failures to disclose, Bank OZK's securities traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired Bank OZK's securities relying upon the integrity of the market price of the Company's securities and market information relating to Bank OZK, and have been damaged thereby.

50. During the Class Period, Defendants materially misled the investing public, thereby inflating the price of Bank OZK's securities, by publicly issuing false and/or misleading statements and/or omitting to disclose material facts necessary to make Defendants' statements, as set forth herein, not false and/or misleading. The statements and omissions were materially false and/or misleading because they failed to disclose material adverse information and/or misrepresented the truth about Bank OZK's business, operations, and prospects as alleged herein.

51. At all relevant times, the material misrepresentations and omissions particularized in this Complaint directly or proximately caused or were a substantial contributing cause of the damages sustained by Plaintiff and other members of the Class. As described herein, during the Class Period, Defendants made or caused to be made a series of materially false and/or misleading statements about Bank OZK's financial well-being and prospects. These material misstatements and/or omissions had the cause and effect of creating in the market an unrealistically positive assessment of the Company and its financial well-being and prospects, thus causing the Company's securities to be overvalued and artificially inflated at all relevant times. Defendants' materially false and/or misleading statements during the Class Period

resulted in Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchasing the Company's securities at artificially inflated prices, thus causing the damages complained of herein when the truth was revealed.

### **LOSS CAUSATION**

52. Defendants' wrongful conduct, as alleged herein, directly and proximately caused the economic loss suffered by Plaintiff and the Class.

53. During the Class Period, Plaintiff and the Class purchased Bank OZK's securities at artificially inflated prices and were damaged thereby. The price of the Company's securities significantly declined when the misrepresentations made to the market, and/or the information alleged herein to have been concealed from the market, and/or the effects thereof, were revealed, causing investors' losses.

### **SCIENTER ALLEGATIONS**

54. As alleged herein, Defendants acted with scienter since Defendants knew that the public documents and statements issued or disseminated in the name of the Company were materially false and/or misleading; knew that such statements or documents would be issued or disseminated to the investing public; and knowingly and substantially participated or acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of such statements or documents as primary violations of the federal securities laws. As set forth elsewhere herein in detail, the Individual Defendants, by virtue of their receipt of information reflecting the true facts regarding Bank OZK, their control over, and/or receipt and/or modification of Bank OZK's allegedly materially misleading misstatements and/or their associations with the Company which made them privy to confidential proprietary information concerning Bank OZK, participated in the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.

**APPLICABILITY OF PRESUMPTION OF RELIANCE  
(FRAUD-ON-THE-MARKET DOCTRINE)**

55. The market for Bank OZK's securities was open, well-developed and efficient at all relevant times. As a result of the materially false and/or misleading statements and/or failures to disclose, Bank OZK's securities traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. On March 7, 2018, the Company's share price closed at a Class Period high of \$53.11 per share. Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired the Company's securities relying upon the integrity of the market price of Bank OZK's securities and market information relating to Bank OZK, and have been damaged thereby.

56. During the Class Period, the artificial inflation of Bank OZK's shares was caused by the material misrepresentations and/or omissions particularized in this Complaint causing the damages sustained by Plaintiff and other members of the Class. As described herein, during the Class Period, Defendants made or caused to be made a series of materially false and/or misleading statements about Bank OZK's business, prospects, and operations. These material misstatements and/or omissions created an unrealistically positive assessment of Bank OZK and its business, operations, and prospects, thus causing the price of the Company's securities to be artificially inflated at all relevant times, and when disclosed, negatively affected the value of the Company shares. Defendants' materially false and/or misleading statements during the Class Period resulted in Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchasing the Company's securities at such artificially inflated prices, and each of them has been damaged as a result.

57. At all relevant times, the market for Bank OZK's securities was an efficient market for the following reasons, among others:

- (a) Bank OZK shares met the requirements for listing, and was listed and actively traded on the NASDAQ, a highly efficient and automated market;
- (b) As a regulated issuer, Bank OZK filed periodic public reports with the SEC

and/or the NASDAQ;

(c) Bank OZK regularly communicated with public investors via established market communication mechanisms, including through regular dissemination of press releases on the national circuits of major newswire services and through other wide-ranging public disclosures, such as communications with the financial press and other similar reporting services; and/or

(d) Bank OZK was followed by securities analysts employed by brokerage firms who wrote reports about the Company, and these reports were distributed to the sales force and certain customers of their respective brokerage firms. Each of these reports was publicly available and entered the public marketplace.

58. As a result of the foregoing, the market for Bank OZK's securities promptly digested current information regarding Bank OZK from all publicly available sources and reflected such information in Bank OZK's share price. Under these circumstances, all purchasers of Bank OZK's securities during the Class Period suffered similar injury through their purchase of Bank OZK's securities at artificially inflated prices and a presumption of reliance applies.

59. A Class-wide presumption of reliance is also appropriate in this action under the Supreme Court's holding in *Affiliated Ute Citizens of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128 (1972), because the Class's claims are, in large part, grounded on Defendants' material misstatements and/or omissions. Because this action involves Defendants' failure to disclose material adverse information regarding the Company's business operations and financial prospects—information that Defendants were obligated to disclose—positive proof of reliance is not a prerequisite to recovery. All that is necessary is that the facts withheld be material in the sense that a reasonable investor might have considered them important in making investment decisions. Given the importance of the Class Period material misstatements and omissions set forth above, that requirement is satisfied here.

**NO SAFE HARBOR**

60. The statutory safe harbor provided for forward-looking statements under certain circumstances does not apply to any of the allegedly false statements pleaded in this Complaint. The statements alleged to be false and misleading herein all relate to then-existing facts and conditions. In addition, to the extent certain of the statements alleged to be false may be characterized as forward looking, they were not identified as “forward-looking statements” when made and there were no meaningful cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the purportedly forward-looking statements. In the alternative, to the extent that the statutory safe harbor is determined to apply to any forward-looking statements pleaded herein, Defendants are liable for those false forward-looking statements because at the time each of those forward-looking statements was made, the speaker had actual knowledge that the forward-looking statement was materially false or misleading, and/or the forward-looking statement was authorized or approved by an executive officer of Bank OZK who knew that the statement was false when made.

**FIRST CLAIM**  
**Violation of Section 10(b) of The Exchange Act and**  
**Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder**  
**Against All Defendants**

61. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

62. During the Class Period, Defendants carried out a plan, scheme and course of conduct which was intended to and, throughout the Class Period, did: (i) deceive the investing public, including Plaintiff and other Class members, as alleged herein; and (ii) cause Plaintiff and other members of the Class to purchase Bank OZK’s securities at artificially inflated prices. In furtherance of this unlawful scheme, plan and course of conduct, Defendants, and each defendant, took the actions set forth herein.



63. Defendants (i) employed devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud; (ii) made untrue statements of material fact and/or omitted to state material facts necessary to make the statements not misleading; and (iii) engaged in acts, practices, and a course of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon the purchasers of the Company's securities in an effort to maintain artificially high market prices for Bank OZK's securities in violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5. All Defendants are sued either as primary participants in the wrongful and illegal conduct charged herein or as controlling persons as alleged below.

64. Defendants, individually and in concert, directly and indirectly, by the use, means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce and/or of the mails, engaged and participated in a continuous course of conduct to conceal adverse material information about Bank OZK's financial well-being and prospects, as specified herein.

65. Defendants employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud, while in possession of material adverse non-public information and engaged in acts, practices, and a course of conduct as alleged herein in an effort to assure investors of Bank OZK's value and performance and continued substantial growth, which included the making of, or the participation in the making of, untrue statements of material facts and/or omitting to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made about Bank OZK and its business operations and future prospects in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, as set forth more particularly herein, and engaged in transactions, practices and a course of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon the purchasers of the Company's securities during the Class Period.

66. Each of the Individual Defendants' primary liability and controlling person liability arises from the following facts: (i) the Individual Defendants were high-level executives and/or directors at the Company during the Class Period and members of the Company's

management team or had control thereof; (ii) each of these defendants, by virtue of their responsibilities and activities as a senior officer and/or director of the Company, was privy to and participated in the creation, development and reporting of the Company's internal budgets, plans, projections and/or reports; (iii) each of these defendants enjoyed significant personal contact and familiarity with the other defendants and was advised of, and had access to, other members of the Company's management team, internal reports and other data and information about the Company's finances, operations, and sales at all relevant times; and (iv) each of these defendants was aware of the Company's dissemination of information to the investing public which they knew and/or recklessly disregarded was materially false and misleading.

67. Defendants had actual knowledge of the misrepresentations and/or omissions of material facts set forth herein, or acted with reckless disregard for the truth in that they failed to ascertain and to disclose such facts, even though such facts were available to them. Such defendants' material misrepresentations and/or omissions were done knowingly or recklessly and for the purpose and effect of concealing Bank OZK's financial well-being and prospects from the investing public and supporting the artificially inflated price of its securities. As demonstrated by Defendants' overstatements and/or misstatements of the Company's business, operations, financial well-being, and prospects throughout the Class Period, Defendants, if they did not have actual knowledge of the misrepresentations and/or omissions alleged, were reckless in failing to obtain such knowledge by deliberately refraining from taking those steps necessary to discover whether those statements were false or misleading.

68. As a result of the dissemination of the materially false and/or misleading information and/or failure to disclose material facts, as set forth above, the market price of Bank OZK's securities was artificially inflated during the Class Period. In ignorance of the fact that market prices of the Company's securities were artificially inflated, and relying directly or

indirectly on the false and misleading statements made by Defendants, or upon the integrity of the market in which the securities trades, and/or in the absence of material adverse information that was known to or recklessly disregarded by Defendants, but not disclosed in public statements by Defendants during the Class Period, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class acquired Bank OZK's securities during the Class Period at artificially high prices and were damaged thereby.

69. At the time of said misrepresentations and/or omissions, Plaintiff and other members of the Class were ignorant of their falsity, and believed them to be true. Had Plaintiff and the other members of the Class and the marketplace known the truth regarding the problems that Bank OZK was experiencing, which were not disclosed by Defendants, Plaintiff and other members of the Class would not have purchased or otherwise acquired their Bank OZK securities, or, if they had acquired such securities during the Class Period, they would not have done so at the artificially inflated prices which they paid.

70. By virtue of the foregoing, Defendants violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder.

71. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class suffered damages in connection with their respective purchases and sales of the Company's securities during the Class Period.

**SECOND CLAIM**  
**Violation of Section 20(a) of The Exchange Act**  
**Against the Individual Defendants**

72. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

73. Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of Bank OZK within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act as alleged herein. By virtue of their high-level

positions and their ownership and contractual rights, participation in, and/or awareness of the Company's operations and intimate knowledge of the false financial statements filed by the Company with the SEC and disseminated to the investing public, Individual Defendants had the power to influence and control and did influence and control, directly or indirectly, the decision-making of the Company, including the content and dissemination of the various statements which Plaintiff contends are false and misleading. Individual Defendants were provided with or had unlimited access to copies of the Company's reports, press releases, public filings, and other statements alleged by Plaintiff to be misleading prior to and/or shortly after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements or cause the statements to be corrected.

74. In particular, Individual Defendants had direct and supervisory involvement in the day-to-day operations of the Company and, therefore, had the power to control or influence the particular transactions giving rise to the securities violations as alleged herein, and exercised the same.

75. As set forth above, Bank OZK and Individual Defendants each violated Section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5 by their acts and omissions as alleged in this Complaint. By virtue of their position as controlling persons, Individual Defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff and other members of the Class suffered damages in connection with their purchases of the Company's securities during the Class Period.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- (a) Determining that this action is a proper class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- (b) Awarding compensatory damages in favor of Plaintiff and the other Class members against all defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result of Defendants' wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class their reasonable costs and expenses incurred in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees; and
- (d) Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: October 26, 2018

By: s/ Steven A. Owings

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