ASTA FUNDING INC Form 10-Q February 14, 2019

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| UNITED STATES  |
| SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION   |
| Washington, DC 20549   |
|  |
| FORM 10-Q  |
|  |
| QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  |
| For the quarterly period ended December 31, 2018   |
| OR   |
| TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 |
| For the transition period from to  |
| Commission file number: 001-35637  |

| <b>ASTA</b> | FUNDIN | G. INC. |
|-------------|--------|---------|
|-------------|--------|---------|

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 22-3388607
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (IRS Employer Identification

No.)

210 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey (Address of principal executive offices) 07632 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number: (201) 567-5648

Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report: N/A

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files).

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes

No

As of February 13, 2019, the registrant had 6,685,415 common shares outstanding.

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# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

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## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## **Item 1. Financial Statements**

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## **Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

|  | December 31, 2018 | September 30, 2018 |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
|  | (Unaudited)       |                    |
| ASSETS   |                   |                    |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$6,211,000       | \$6,284,000        |
| Available for sale debt securities (at fair value)   | 35,759,000        | 38,054,000         |
| Investments in equity securities (at fair value)   | 7,799,000         | _                  |
| Consumer receivables acquired for liquidation (at cost)  | 3,071,000         | 3,749,000          |
| Investment in personal injury claims, net  | 8,813,000         | 10,745,000         |
| Due from third party collection agencies and attorneys   | 668,000           | 755,000            |
| Accounts receivable, net   | 376,000           | _                  |
| Prepaid and income taxes receivable  | 4,973,000         | 5,387,000          |
| Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$1.8 million at December 31, 2018 and September 30, 2018    | 84,000            | 100,000            |
| Equity method investment   | 267,000           | 236,000            |
| Note receivable  | 3,831,000         | 4,313,000          |
| Settlement receivable  | 2,866,000         | 3,339,000          |
| Deferred income taxes  | 10,726,000        | 10,940,000         |
| Goodwill   | 1,410,000         | 1,410,000          |
| Other assets   | 819,000           | 1,003,000          |
| Total assets   | \$87,673,000      | \$86,315,000       |
| LIABILITIES  |                   |                    |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses  | \$1,969,000       | \$2,281,000        |
| Commitments and contingencies  |                   |                    |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY   |                   |                    |
| Preferred stock, \$.01 par value; authorized 5,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding — none                             | _                 | _                  |
| Preferred stock, Series A Junior Participating, \$.01 par value; authorized 30,000 shares; issued and outstanding — none | _                 | _                  |

| Common stock, \$.01 par value, authorized 30,000,000 shares; issued 13,459,708 at     |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| December 31, 2018 and September 30, 2018; and outstanding 6,685,415 at December       | 135,000      | 135,000      |
| 31, 2018 and September 30, 2018   |              |              |
| Additional paid-in capital  | 68,558,000   | 68,551,000   |
| Retained earnings   | 83,879,000   | 82,441,000   |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of taxes                                  | 260,000      | 35,000       |
| Treasury stock (at cost) 6,774,293 shares at December 31, 2018 and September 30, 2018 | (67,128,000) | (67,128,000) |
| Total stockholders' equity  | 85,704,000   | 84,034,000   |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity  | \$87,673,000 | \$86,315,000 |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

# **Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations**

## (Unaudited)

|  | Three<br>Months  | Three<br>Months |          |
|--|------------------|-----------------|----------|
|  | Ended            | Ended           |          |
|  | December 31,     | December 31,    | •        |
|  | 2018             | 2017            |          |
| Revenues:  |                  |                 |          |
| Finance income, net                                      | \$3,494,000      |                 | 0        |
| Personal injury claims income                            | 713,000          | 141,000         |          |
| Disability fee income                                    | 1,261,000        |                 |          |
| Total revenues   | 5,468,000        |                 | 0        |
| Other income, net  | 234,000          | ,               |          |
|  | 5,702,000        | 5,271,000       | 0        |
| Expenses:  |                  |                 |          |
| General and administrative                               | 3,926,000        | 4,212,000       |          |
| Loss (earnings) from equity method investment            | 30,000           | (352,000        | -        |
|  | 3,956,000        | 3,860,000       | 0        |
| Income from continuing operations before income tax      | 1,746,000        | 1,411,000       | 0        |
| Income tax expense                                       | 471,000          |                 |          |
| Net income (loss) from continuing operations             | 1,275,000        | (2,589,00       |          |
| ret income (1033) from continuing operations             | 1,275,000        | (2,30),00       | ,,,      |
| Net loss from discontinued operations, net of income tax | _                | (80,000         | )        |
| Net income (loss)  | \$1,275,000      | \$(2,669,00     | 00)      |
| Net income (loss) per basic shares:                      |                  |                 |          |
| Continuing operations                                    | \$0.19           | \$(0.39         | )        |
| Discontinued operations                                  | ψ0.1 <i>&gt;</i> | (0.01           | <i>,</i> |
| Discontinued operations                                  | \$0.19           | \$(0.40         | <i>)</i> |
| Net income (loss) per diluted shares:                    | ψ0.17            | Φ(0.70          | ,        |
| Continuing operations                                    | \$0.19           | \$(0.39         | )        |
| Discontinued operations                                  | Ψ <b>0.1</b> /   | (0.01)          | )        |
| Discontinued operations                                  | \$0.19           | \$(0.40         | )        |
|  | ψ0.13            | Ψ(0.70          | ,        |

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:

| Basic   | 6,685,415 | 6,623,815 |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Diluted | 6,685,722 | 6,623,815 |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

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## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)** 

December 31, 2018 and 2017

(Unaudited)

|  | Three<br>Months<br>Ended<br>December<br>31, | Three<br>Months<br>Ended<br>December<br>31, |
|--|---|---|
|  | 2018  | 2017  |
| Comprehensive income (loss) is as follows:   |   |   |
| Net income (loss)  | \$1,275,000                                 | \$(2,669,000)                               |
| Net unrealized gain (loss) on debt securities, net of tax (expense)/benefit of (\$52,000) and \$4,000 during the three month periods ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. | 135,000                                     | (7,000 )                                    |
| Foreign currency translation, net of tax expense of (\$25,000) and (\$14,000) during the three months ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.                                | 80,000                                      | 29,000                                      |
| Other comprehensive income   | 215,000                                     | 22,000                                      |
| Total comprehensive income (loss)  | \$1,490,000                                 | \$(2,647,000)                               |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

# **Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity**

## (Unaudited)

|  | Common St        | ock       | Additional         |                      | Accumulated<br>Other |                                  | Total                   |  |
|--|------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|  | Issued<br>Shares | Amount    | Paid-in<br>Capital | Retained<br>Earnings | Comprehens<br>Income | iv <del>E</del> reasury<br>Stock | Stockholders'<br>Equity |  |
| Balance,<br>September 30,<br>2018  | 13,459,708       | \$135,000 | \$68,551,000       | \$82,441,000         | \$ 35,000            | \$(67,128,000)                   | \$84,034,000            |  |
| Cumulative effect<br>of adjustment for<br>adoption of ASC<br>606, net of tax of<br>\$80,000<br>Cumulative effect | _                | _         | _                  | 173,000              | _                    | _                                | 173,000                 |  |
| of adjustment for<br>adoption of ASU<br>No. 2016-01, net<br>of tax of \$5,000                                    | _                | _         | _                  | (10,000 )            | 10,000               | _                                | _                       |  |
| Adjusted opening equity  | 13,459,708       | \$135,000 | \$68,551,000       | \$82,604,000         | \$ 45,000            | \$(67,128,000)                   | \$84,207,000            |  |
| Stock based compensation expense   | _                | _         | 7,000              | _                    | _                    | _                                | 7,000                   |  |
| Net income Unrealized gain   | _                | _         | _                  | 1,275,000            | _                    | _                                | 1,275,000               |  |
| on debt<br>securities, net   | _                | _         | _                  | _                    | 135,000              | _                                | 135,000                 |  |
| Foreign currency translation, net  | _                | _         | _                  | _                    | 80,000               | _                                | 80,000                  |  |
| Balance,<br>December 31,<br>2018   | 13,459,708       | \$135,000 | \$68,558,000       | \$83,879,000         | \$ 260,000           | \$(67,128,000)                   | \$85,704,000            |  |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## **Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

(Unaudited)

|  | Three Months<br>December<br>31, | Ended<br>December<br>31, |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | 2018                            | 2017                     |
| Cash flows from operating activities:  |                                 |                          |
| Net income (loss) from continuing operations   | \$1,275,000                     | \$(2,589,000)            |
| Net loss from discontinued operations  | _                               | (80,000)                 |
| Net income (loss)  | \$1,275,000                     | \$(2,669,000)            |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: |                                 |                          |
| Depreciation and amortization  | 16,000                          | 18,000                   |
| Deferred income taxes  | 162,000                         | 3,514,000                |
| Stock based compensation   | 7,000                           | 79,000                   |
| Unrealized loss on equity securities   | 29,000                          | _                        |
| Provision for bad debts – personal injury claims   | 203,000                         | 475,000                  |
| Loss (earnings) from equity method investment  | 30,000                          | (352,000)                |
| Changes in:  |                                 |                          |
| Prepaid and income taxes receivable  | 414,000                         | 456,000                  |
| Due from third party collection agencies and attorneys                                   | 64,000                          | (23,000)                 |
| Accounts receivable  | (203,000)                       | _                        |
| Other assets   | 184,000                         | 111,000                  |
| Other liabilities  | (232,000)                       | (1,460,000)              |
| Net cash provided by operating activities of discontinued operations                     |                                 | 710,000                  |
| Net cash provided by operating activities  | 1,949,000                       | 859,000                  |
| Cash flows from investing activities:  |                                 |                          |
| Principal collected on receivables acquired for liquidation                              | 535,000                         | 754,000                  |
| Purchase of available for sale debt securities and investments in equity securities      | (25,920,000)                    | (77,000)                 |
| Proceeds from sale of available for sale debt securities                                 | 20,574,000                      | _                        |
| Proceeds from sale of CBC  | _                               | 4,491,000                |
| Proceeds from note receivable  | 482,000                         | 479,000                  |
| Proceeds from settlement receivable  | 473,000                         | _                        |
| Personal injury claims - advances  |                                 | (60,000)                 |
| Personal injury claims - receipts  | 1,729,000                       | 139,000                  |
| Increase in equity method investment   | (61,000)                        | (607,000 )               |
| Net cash used in investing activities of discontinued operations                         |                                 | (1,538,000)              |
| Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities                                      | (2,188,000)                     | 3,581,000                |
| Cash flows from financing activities:  |                                 |                          |
| Net cash provided by financing activities of discontinued operations                     |                                 | 1,387,000                |
| Net cash provided by financing activities  | _                               | 1,387,000                |
|  |                                 |                          |

| Foreign currency effect on cash  | 166,000     | 83,000       |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents including cash and cash equivalents classified within assets related to discontinued operations | (73,000     | ) 5,910,000  |
| Less: net decrease in cash and cash equivalents classified within assets related to discontinued operations  | _           | (316,000 )   |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents   | (73,000     | ) 5,594,000  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period   | 6,284,000   | 17,591,000   |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period   | \$6,211,000 | \$23,185,000 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:  |             |              |
| Discontinued operations:   |             |              |
| Cash paid for: Interest  | <b>\$</b> — | \$824,000    |
| Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing:   |             |              |
| Continuing operations:   |             |              |
| Note receivable  | <b>\$</b> — | \$5,750,000  |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1—Business and Basis of Presentation

#### **Business**

Asta Funding, Inc. ("Asta"), a Delaware Corporation, together with its wholly owned significant operating subsidiaries Palisades Collection, LLC, Palisades Acquisition XVI, LLC ("Palisades XVI"), Palisades Acquisition XIX, LLC ("Palisades XXIII"), VATIV Recovery Solutions LLC ("VATIV"), ASFI Pegasus Holdings, LLC ("ASFI"), Fund Pegasus, LLC ("Fund Pegasus"), GAR Disability Advocates, LLC ("GAR Disability Advocates"), Five Star Veterans Disability, LLC ("Five Star"), EMIRIC, LLC ("EMIRIC"), Simia Capital, LLC ("Simia"), Sylvave, LLC ("Sylvave") (formerly known as Pegasus Funding, LLC ("Pegasus")), Practical Funding LLC ("Practical Funding"), and other subsidiaries, which are *not* all wholly owned (the "Company," "we" or "us"), is engaged in several business segments in the financial services industry including funding of personal injury claims, through the Company's wholly owned subsidiaries Sylvave, Simia and Practical Funding, social security disability advocacy through the Company's wholly owned subsidiaries GAR Disability Advocates and Five Star and the business of purchasing, managing for its own account and servicing distressed consumer receivables, including charged off receivables, and semi-performing receivables.

For the period *October 1, 2017* to *January 12, 2018*, Pegasus was 80% owned, but *not* controlled, and accounted for under the equity method. On *January 12, 2018* ("Date of Acquisition"), the Company acquired the remaining 20% minority interest and a controlling financial interest, in Pegasus, and changed its name to Sylvave. Commencing on the Date of Acquisition, the Company consolidated the financial results of this entity.

We operate principally in the United States in *three* reportable business segments: consumer receivables, social security disability advocacy and personal injury claims. We previously operated a *fourth* segment when we engaged in the structured settlements business through our wholly owned subsidiary CBC Settlement Funding, LLC ("CBC"), which we sold on *December 13*, 2017.

As a result of the sale of CBC, all periods presented in the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements account for CBC as a discontinued operation. This determination resulted in the reclassification of the historical assets

and liabilities comprising the structured settlement business to assets and liabilities related to discontinued operations in the condensed consolidated balance sheets, and a corresponding adjustment to our condensed consolidated statements of operations to reflect discontinued operations for all periods presented. See Note 7 - Discontinued Operations.

#### Consumer receivables

This segment is engaged in the business of purchasing, managing for its own account and servicing distressed consumer receivables, including charged off receivables, and semi-performing receivables. Recently, our effort has been in the international areas (mainly South America), as we have curtailed our active purchasing of consumer receivables in the United States. We acquire these consumer receivables at substantial discounts to their face values, based on the characteristics of the underlying accounts of each portfolio.

#### Personal injury claims

This segment is comprised of purchased interests in personal injury claims from claimants who are a party to a personal injury claim. The Company advances to each claimant funds on a non-recourse basis at an agreed upon interest rate, in anticipation of a future settlement. The interest in each claim purchased consists of the right to receive, from such claimant, part of the proceeds or recoveries which such claimant receives by reason of a settlement, judgment or award with respect to such claimant's claim. The Company historically funded personal injury claims in Simia and Sylvave. The Company formed a new wholly owned subsidiary, Practical Funding on *March 16*, 2018, to continue in the personal injury claims funding business. To date, Practical Funding has *not* funded any advances on personal injury claims.

Simia commenced operations in *January 2017*, and conducts its business solely in the United States. Simia obtained its business from external brokers and internal sales professionals soliciting attorneys and law firms who represent claimants who have personal injury claims. Business was also obtained from its website and through attorneys. The Company accounted for its investment in Sylvave under the equity method of accounting through *January 12, 2018*, and for subsequent periods the Company includes the financial results of Sylvave in its consolidated statement of operations. Simia and Sylvave are *not* funding any new advances, but continue to collect on outstanding personal claim advances in the ordinary course.

#### Social security disability advocacy

This segment consists of advocacy groups representing individuals throughout the United States in their claims for social security disability and supplemental social security income benefits from the Social Security and Veterans Administration.

## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1—Business and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The consolidated balance sheet as of *December 31, 2018*, the consolidated statements of operations for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and *2017*, the consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss) for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018*, and the consolidated statements of stockholders' equity as of and for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018*, and the consolidated statements of cash flows for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and *2017*, are unaudited. The *September 30, 2018* financial information included in this report was derived from our audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form *10*-K for the fiscal year ended *September 30, 2018*. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary to present fairly our financial position at *December 31, 2018*, the results of operations for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and *2017*, the statement of comprehensive income (loss) for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and *2017*, the statement of stockholders' equity for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and *2017* have been made. The results of operations for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and *2017* have been made. The results of operations for the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and *2017* are *not* necessarily indicative of the operating results for any other interim period or the full fiscal year.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and therefore do *not* include all information and note disclosures required under generally accepted accounting principles. The Company suggests that these financial statements be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended *September 30*, 2018 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The condensed consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("US GAAP") and industry practices.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Actual results could differ from those estimates including management's estimates of future cash flows and the resulting rates of return.

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Asta Funding, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

## Liquidity

At *December 31*, 2018, the Company had \$6.2 million in cash and cash equivalents, as well as \$43.6 million in level 1 securities that are classified as available for sale debt securities and investments in equity securities, on hand and no debt. In addition, the Company had working capital of \$85.7 million at *December 31*, 2018.

We believe that our available cash resources and expected cash inflows from operations will be sufficient to fund operations for at least the next *twelve* months.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk - Cash and cash equivalents

The Company considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity date of *three* months or less at the date of purchase to be cash equivalents.

Cash balances are maintained at various depository institutions and are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"). The Company had cash balances with *six* banks at *December 31*, 2018 that each exceeded the balance insured by the FDIC by approximately \$1.8 million. Additionally, *two* foreign banks with an aggregate \$2.1 million balances are *not* FDIC insured. The Company does *not* believe it is exposed to any significant credit risk due to concentration of cash.

#### Investments in Equity Securities

The Company adopted ASU *No. 2016-01* on *October 1, 2018*, which requires substantially all equity investments in nonconsolidated entities to be measured at fair value with changes recognized in earnings, except for those accounted for using the equity method of accounting. Changes in the fair value of equity securities are included in other income, net on the consolidated statement of operations.

## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1—Business and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

#### Available-for-Sale Debt Securities

Non-equity investments that the Company intends to hold for an indefinite period of time, but *not* necessarily to maturity, are classified as available-for-sale debt securities and are carried at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale debt securities are determined using the specific-identification method. Unrealized gains/losses are recorded in other comprehensive income (loss).

Declines in the fair value of individual available-for-sale debt securities below their respective costs that are other than temporary will result in write-downs of the individual securities to their fair value. Factors affecting the determination of whether another-than-temporary impairment has occurred include: a downgrading of the security by a rating agency, a significant deterioration in the financial condition of the issuer, or that management would *not* have the ability to hold a security for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value.

#### Equity method investments

Investee companies that are *not* consolidated, but over which the Company exercises significant influence, are accounted for under the equity method of accounting. Whether or *not* the Company exercises significant influence with respect to an investee depends on an evaluation of several factors including, among others, representation on the investee company's board of directors and ownership level, which is generally a 20% to 50% interest in voting securities of the investee company. Under the equity method of accounting, an investee company's accounts are *not* reflected within the Company's consolidated balance sheets and statements of operations; however, the Company's share of the earnings of the investee company is reflected as earnings and loss from equity method investment in the Company's consolidated statement of operations. The Company's carrying value in an equity method investee company is reflected on the Company's consolidated balance sheet, as equity method investment.

When the Company's carrying value in an equity method investee company is reduced to zero, *no* further losses are recorded in the Company's consolidated financial statements unless the Company guaranteed obligations of the investee company or has committed additional funding. When the investee company subsequently reports income, the Company will *not* record its share of such income until it equals the amount of its share of losses *not* previously recognized. There were *no* impairment losses recorded on our equity method investments for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017.

#### Personal Injury Claim Advances and Impairments

The Company accounts for its investments in personal injury claims at an agreed upon interest rate, in anticipation of a future settlement. The Company's interest purchased in personal injury claim advances consists of the right to receive from a claimant part of the proceeds or recoveries which such claimant receives by reason of a settlement, judgment or reward with respect to such claimant's claim. Open case revenue is estimated, recognized and accrued at a rate based on the expected realization and underwriting guidelines and facts and circumstances for each individual case. These personal injury claims are non-recourse. When a case is closed and the cash is received for the advance provided to a claimant, revenue is recognized based upon the contractually agreed upon interest rate, and, if applicable, adjusted for any changes due to a settled amount and fees charged to the claimant.

Management assesses the quality of the personal injury claims portfolio through an analysis of the underlying personal injury fundings on a case by case basis. Cases are reviewed through periodic updates with attorneys handling the cases, as well as with *third* party research tools which monitor public filings, such as motions or judgments rendered on specific cases. The Company specifically reserves for those fundings where the underlying cases are identified as uncollectible, due to anticipated non-favorable verdicts and/or settlements at levels where recovery of the advance outstanding is unlikely. For cases that have *not* exhibited any specific negative collection indicators, the Company establishes reserves based on the historical collection rates of the Company's fundings. Fee income on advances is reserved for on all cases where a specific reserve is established on the initially funded amount. In addition, management also monitors its historical collection rates on fee income and establishes reserves on fee income consistent with the historically experienced collection rates. Management regularly analyzes and updates the historical collection rates of its initially funded cases as well as its fee income.

#### Income Recognition - Consumer Receivables

The Company accounts for certain of its investments in consumer receivables using the guidance of Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC"), Receivables - Loans and Debt Securities Acquired with Deteriorated Credit Quality ("ASC 310"). Under the guidance of ASC 310, static pools of accounts are established. These pools are aggregated based on certain common risk criteria. Each static pool is recorded at cost and is accounted for as a single unit for the recognition of income, principal payments and loss provision. Due to the substantial reduction of portfolios reported under the interest method, and the inability to reasonably estimate cash collections required to account for those portfolios under the interest method the Company concluded the cost recovery method is the appropriate accounting method under the circumstances.

#### ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1—Business and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Under the guidance of ASC 310-30, the Company must analyze a portfolio upon acquisition to ensure which method is appropriate, and once a static pool is established for a quarter, individual receivable accounts are *not* added to the pool (unless replaced by the seller) or removed from the pool (unless sold or returned to the seller).

The Company uses the cost recovery method when collections on a particular pool of accounts cannot be reasonably predicted. Under the cost recovery method, *no* income is recognized until the cost of the portfolio has been fully recovered. A pool can become fully amortized (*zero* carrying balance on the balance sheet) while still generating cash collections. In this case, all cash collections are recognized as revenue when received.

### Impairments - Consumer Receivables

The Company accounts for its impairments in accordance with ASC 310, which provides guidance on how to account for differences between contractual and expected cash flows from an investor's initial investment in loans or debt securities acquired in a transfer if those differences are attributable, at least in part, to credit quality. The recognition of income under ASC 310 is dependent on the Company having the ability to develop reasonable expectations of both the timing and amount of cash flows to be collected. In the event the Company cannot develop a reasonable expectation as to both the timing and amount of cash flows expected to be collected. ASC 310 permits the change to the cost recovery method. The Company will recognize income only after it has recovered its carrying value.

If collection projections indicate the carrying value will *not* be recovered, an impairment is required. The impairment will be equal to the difference between the carrying value at the time of the forecast and the corresponding estimated remaining future collections. The Company believes it has significant experience in acquiring certain distressed consumer receivable portfolios at a significant discount to the amount actually owed by underlying customers. The Company invests in these portfolios only after both qualitative and quantitative analyses of the underlying receivables are performed and a calculated purchase price is paid so that it believes its estimated cash flow offers an adequate return on acquisition costs after servicing expenses. Additionally, when considering larger portfolio purchases of accounts, or portfolios from issuers with whom the Company has limited experience, it has the added benefit of soliciting its *third* party collection agencies and attorneys for their input on liquidation rates and, at times, incorporates

such input into the estimates it uses for its expected cash flows, and the Company's ability to recover their cost basis. For the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, the Company did *not* record any impairments on its domestic or international portfolios.

### Income Recognition - Social Security Disability Advocacy

Effective *October 1*, 2018, the Company adopted ASC 606 - "Revenue from Contracts with Customer" ("ASC 606"), which was effective for annual periods beginning on or after *December 15*, 2017. ASC 606 introduced a *five*-step approach to revenue recognition. See "Recent Accounting Pronouncements" for a discussion of ASC 606.

The Company applied ASC 606 in accordance with the modified retrospective transitional approach recognizing the cumulative effect of initially applying the revenue standard as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings during this period ( *October 1, 2018*). Comparative prior year periods were *not* adjusted. In applying the modified retrospective approach, we elected practical expedients for (a) completed contracts as described in ASC 606-10-65-1-c(2), and (b) contract modifications as described in ASC 606-10-65-1-f(4), allowing (a) the application of the revenue standard only to contracts that were *not* completed as of the date of initial application, and (b) to reflect the aggregate effect of all modifications that occur before the adoption date in accordance with the new standard when: (i) identifying the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligations, (ii) determining the transaction price, and (iii) allocating the transaction price to the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligations. We believe that the impact on the opening balance of retained earnings during the period ( *October 1, 2018*) would *not* have been significantly different had we *not* elected to use the practical expedients.

The Company recognizes disability fee income for GAR Disability Advocates and Five Star when disability claimant's cases close, when cash is received or when the Company receives a notice of award from the Social Security Administration ("SSA") or the Veterans Administration that stipulates the amount of fee approved by the SSA to be paid to the Company. The Company establishes a reserve for the differentials in amounts awarded by the SSA compared to the actual amounts received by the Company. Fees paid to the Company are withheld by the SSA against the claimant's disability claim award, and are remitted directly to the Company from the SSA.

## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1—Business and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

#### Commissions and fees

Commissions and fees are the contractual commissions earned by *third*-party collection agencies and attorneys, and direct costs associated with the collection effort, generally court costs. The Company utilizes *third*-party collection agencies and attorney networks.

#### Income taxes

Deferred federal and state taxes arise from (i) recognition of finance income collected for tax purposes, but *not* yet recognized for financial reporting; (ii) provision for impairments/credit losses, all resulting in timing differences between financial accounting and tax reporting; (iii) amortization of intangibles resulting in timing differences between financial accounting and tax reporting; (iv) stock based compensation; and (v) partnership investments.

#### Fair Value Hierarchy

FASB ASC 825, Financial Instruments, ("ASC 825"), requires disclosure of fair value information about financial instruments, whether or *not* recognized on the balance sheet, for which it is practicable to estimate that value. Because there are a limited number of market participants for certain of the Company's assets and liabilities, fair value estimates are based upon judgments regarding credit risk, investor expectation of economic conditions, normal cost of administration and other risk characteristics, including interest rate and prepayment risk. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of judgment, which significantly affect the estimates.

The Company records its available-for-sale debt securities and investments in equity securities at estimated fair value on a recurring basis. The accompanying consolidated financial statements include estimated fair value information

regarding its available-for-sale debt securities and investments in equity securities as of *December 31*, 2018, as required by FASB ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ("ASC 820"). ASC 820 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. ASC 820 also establishes a fair value hierarchy which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input significant to the fair value measurement.

Level 1 - Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to assess at the measurement date.

Level 2 - Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices in markets that are *not* active for identical or similar assets or liabilities; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or *no* market activity and significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities that are developed using the reporting entities' estimates and assumptions, which reflect those that market participants would use.

#### Reclassification

Certain prior period amounts in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. These reclassifications had *no* effect on previously reported net income or stockholders' equity.

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

#### Adopted During The Three Months Ended December 31, 2018

On *October 1*, 2018, the Company adopted FASB update ASC 606 that requires use of a single principles-based model for recognition of revenue from contracts with customers. The core principle of the model is to recognize revenue upon transfer of promised goods or services to customers, in an amount that reflects the entitled consideration received in exchange for those goods or services. The guidance also requires additional disclosure about the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from the customer contracts. The Company adopted the new guidance using the modified retrospective approach which did *not* require the restatement of prior periods,

and recognized a cumulative effect adjustment resulting in an increase in total assets and retained earnings of \$173,000, net of taxes of \$80,000.

#### ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1—Business and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

The most significant impact of ASC 606 relates to the Company's accounting for its revenue associated with disability claimant's contracts. Previously, the Company recognized disability fee income when the disability claimants cases closed with the social security administration and the applicable fees were collected. Under the new guidance, the Company determined that the various advocacy services, performed on behalf of a claimant, constitute *one* performance obligation as they represent an integrated set of services designed to provide a claimant with a successful award. It was also determined that the benefit of these services is conveyed to the claimant at the point in time that the award is determined to be successful. In addition, the Company has made estimates of variable consideration under the expected value method. Therefore, for these arrangements, the Company will recognize revenue when each case is closed, when cash is received or when the Company receives a notice of award, stipulating the Company's fee earned on each case directly from the social security administration.

The primary impact of adopting the new standard results in acceleration of revenues for the aforementioned contractual arrangements, which relate to the social security disability advocacy segment. Disability fee income represents approximately 23.1% of the Company's total consolidated revenues for the *three* months ended *December* 31, 2018.

The following line items in our consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive income for the current reporting period and condensed consolidated balance sheet as of *December 31, 2018* have been provided to reflect both the adoption of ASC 606 as well as a comparative presentation in accordance with ASC 605 previously in effect:

|   | As<br>Reported | Balances<br>Without | Impact of      |
|---|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations and<br>Comprehensive Income (Loss) | (in accordance | Adoption of ASC     | Adoption       |
|   | with ASC 606)  | 606                 | Higher/(Lower) |
| Disability fee income   | \$1,261,000    | \$1,138,000         | \$ 123,000     |

Income from continuing operations before income tax

\$1,746,000 \$1,623,000 \$ 123,000

|   | As of December 31, 2018 |                     |                |  |  |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|--|
| <b>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet</b> | As<br>Reported          | Balances<br>Without | Impact of      |  |  |
|   | (in accordance          | Adoption of ASC     | Adoption       |  |  |
|   | with ASC 606)           | 606                 | Higher/(Lower) |  |  |
| Asset<br>Accounts receivable                | \$376,000               | \$                  | \$ 376,000     |  |  |
| Stockholders' equity<br>Retained earnings   | \$83,879,000            | \$83,626,000-       | \$ 253,000 (1) |  |  |

### (1) Does not include the tax impact of \$80,000

On *October 1*, 2018, the Company adopted FASB ASU *No. 2016-01*, Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities, to address certain aspects of recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of financial instruments. The main provision of this guidance requires certain investments in equity securities to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net earnings; separate presentation in other comprehensive income for changes in fair value of financial liabilities measured under the fair value option that are due to instrument-specific credit risk; and changes in disclosures associated with the fair value of financial instruments. Upon adoption of this ASU, the Company's investments in equity securities are *no* longer classified as available for sale, and changes in fair value are reflected in other income, net on the Company's condensed consolidated statement of operations. In conjunction with this adoption, the Company recorded a cumulative effect adjustment with a decrease to opening retained earnings of \$10,000 and an increase to opening accumulated other comprehensive income of \$10,000, net of tax benefit of \$5,000.

In *August 2016*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2016-15* "Statement of Cash Flows (Topic *230*): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments." This ASU made *eight* targeted changes to how cash receipts and cash payments are presented and classified in the statement of cash flows. The new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning after *December 15, 2017*. Early adoption was permitted. The new standard required adoption on a retrospective basis unless it impracticable to apply, in which case the Company would have been required to apply the amendments prospectively as of the earliest date practicable. The Company's adoption of the ASU did *not* have a material effect on the Company's condensed consolidated statements of cash flows.

## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 1—Business and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

In *January 2017*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2017-01*, "Business Combinations (Topic 805): Clarifying the Definition of a Business." The new rules provide for the application of a screen test to consider whether substantially all the fair value of the assets acquired is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or group of similar identifiable assets. If the screen test determines this to be true, the set is *not* a business. The new standard was effective for the Company in the *first* quarter of 2019. The adoption of the new accounting rules did *not* have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In *March 2017*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2017-09*, Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718) Improvements to Employee Share Based Payment Accounting, to simplify and improve areas of generally accepted accounting principles for which cost and complexity can be reduced while maintaining or improving the usefulness of the information provided to users of financial statements. The effective date for this update was for annual reporting periods beginning after *December 15*, 2017, including interim periods within that reporting period. The adoption of this update did *not* have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted

In *February 2016*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2016-02*, Leases (Topic *842*) which requires lessees to recognize right-of-use assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet for all leases with terms longer than *12* months. For a lease with a term of *12* months or less, a lessee is permitted to make an accounting policy election by class of underlying asset *not* to recognize a right-of-use asset and lease liability. Additionally, when measuring assets and liabilities arising from a lease, optional periods should be included only if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise an option to extend the lease, exercise a purchase option or *not* exercise an option to terminate the lease. In *January 2018*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2018-01*, Leases (Topic *842*): Land Easement Practical Expedient for Transition to ASC *842*. ASU *No. 2018-01* was issued to address concerns about the cost and complexity of complying with the transition provisions of ASU *No. 2018-01*. Additionally, in *July 2018*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2018-11*, "Leases (Topic *842*): Targeted Improvements," which provides an alternative transition method that permits an entity to use the effective date of ASU *No. 2016-02* as the date of initial application through the recognition of a cumulative effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings upon adoption. The standard becomes effective in for fiscal years beginning after *December 15, 2019* and interim periods within those years, and early adoption is permitted. The Company is in the process of reviewing its existing leases, including service contracts for embedded leases to evaluate the impact of

this standard on its consolidated financial statements and the impact on regulatory capital.

In *June 2016*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2016-13*, Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic *326*): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments. The ASU requires an organization to measure all expected credit losses for financial assets held at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts. Additionally, the ASU amends the accounting for credit losses on available-for-sale debt securities and purchased financial assets with credit deterioration. For the Company, this update will be effective for interim periods and annual periods beginning after *December 15*, *2019*. Upon adoption, the Company expects that it will accelerate the recording of its credit losses in its financial statements.

In *January 2017*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2017-04* Intangibles – Goodwill and Other (Topic *350*): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment. The objective of this update is to simplify the subsequent measurement of goodwill, by eliminating step 2 from the goodwill impairment test. The amendments in this update are effective for annual periods beginning after *December 15*, *2019*, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The Company does *not* believe this update will have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In *February 2018*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2018-02*, Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, which allows a reclassification from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) to retained earnings for stranded tax effects resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted on *December 22, 2017*, and requires certain disclosures about stranded tax effects. ASU *2018-02* will be effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning *October 1, 2019*, with early adoption permitted, and should be applied either in the period of adoption or retrospectively to each period (or periods) in which the effect of the change in the U.S. federal corporate income tax rate in the Act is recognized. The adoption of this ASU is *not* expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In *August 2018*, the FASB issued ASU *No. 2018-13*, Fair Value Measurement (Topic *820*): Disclosure Framework – Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement. This ASU modifies the disclosure requirements on fair value measurements. The ASU removes the requirement to disclose: the amount of and reasons for transfers between Level *1* and Level *2* of the fair value hierarchy; the policy for timing of transfers between levels; and the valuation processes for Level *3* fair value measurements. The ASU requires disclosure of changes in unrealized gains and losses for the period included in other comprehensive income (loss) for recurring Level *3* fair value measurements held at the end of the reporting period and the range and weighted average of significant unobservable inputs used to develop Level *3* fair value measurements. This ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after *December 15*, *2019*. The Company is currently evaluating the impact this guidance will have on its consolidated financial statements.

| <b>ASTA FUNDING</b> | . INC. AND | SUBSIDIARIES |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
|---------------------|------------|--------------|

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## Note 2—Investments in Debt and Equity Securities

## Investments in Equity Securities

Investments of equity securities at *December 31, 2018* and *September 30, 2018*, consists of mutual funds valued at \$7.8 million and \$7.6 million, respectively.

Net gains and losses recognized on investments in equity securities for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 are as follows:

|  | Three<br>Months<br>Ended    |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Net gains and losses recognized during the period on equity securities   | December 31, 2018 \$ 29,000 |
| Net gains and losses recognized during the period on equity securities   | \$ 29,000                   |
| Less: Net gains and losses recognized during the period on equity securities sold during the period                      | _                           |
| Unrealized gains and losses recognized during the reporting period on equity securities still held at the reporting date | \$ 29,000                   |

## Available for Sale Debt Securities

Available for sale debt securities at *December 31, 2018* and *September 30, 2018*, consist of the following:

| Dagambar 21 2019                   | Amortized    | Unrealized | Unrealized | Foir Wolve   |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--|
| December 31, 2018                  | Cost         | Gains      | Losses     | rair value   |  |
| Available for sale debt securities | \$35,572,000 | \$ 187,000 | \$         | \$35,759,000 |  |

At *December 31*, 2018, the Company had \$35.8 million in U.S. Treasury Bills, classified as available-for-sale debt securities on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet. These treasury bills had \$135,000 (net of tax expense of \$52,000) in unrealized gains that were recorded in other comprehensive income for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018.

| Contombon 20, 2019 (1)             | Amortized    | Unrealized | Unrealized | Fair Value     |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| September 30, 2018 (1)             | Cost         | Gains      | Losses     | raii value     |
| Available for sale debt securities | \$30,479,000 | \$         | - \$       | - \$30,479,000 |

(1) At September 30, 2018, the Company reported investments in equity securities and available for sale debt securities as a single line item on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet. With the Company's adoption of ASU No. 2016-01 on October 1, 2018, the Company has included the current breakout above for comparability purposes only.

At *September 30*, 2018, the Company had \$30.5 million in U.S. Treasury Bills, which are carried at fair value, and are classified as available for sale debt securities. Both the mutual funds and the U.S. Treasury Bills are deemed to be level 1 assets, *none* of which were in an unrealized loss position that had existed for 12 months or more. In addition, management had the ability but did *not* believe it would be required to sell those investments in debt securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for an anticipated recovery or maturity. Should the impairment of any of those securities become other than temporary, the cost basis of the investment will be reduced and the resulting loss recognized in net income in the period in which the other-than-temporary impairment were identified.

Unrealized holding gains and losses on available for sale debt securities are included in other comprehensive income (loss) within stockholders' equity. Realized gains (losses) on available for sale debt securities are included in other income (loss) and, when applicable, are reported as a reclassification adjustment in other comprehensive income (loss).

### ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

### Note 3—Consumer Receivables Acquired for Liquidation (Continued)

Accounts acquired for liquidation are stated at cost and consist primarily of defaulted consumer loans of individuals primarily, throughout the United States and South America.

The following tables summarize the changes in the consolidated balance sheet account of consumer receivables acquired for liquidation during the following periods:

|  | For the Three Months<br>Ended  December 31, |             |  |
|--|---|-------------|--|
|  |   |             |  |
|  | 2018  | 2017        |  |
| Balance, beginning of period   | \$3,749,000                                 | \$6,841,000 |  |
| Net cash collections from collection of consumer receivables acquired for liquidation              | (4,025,000)                                 | (4,945,000) |  |
| Net cash collections represented by account sales of consumer receivables acquired for liquidation | <del></del>                                 | (2,000 )    |  |
| Effect of foreign currency translation   | (147,000)                                   | (69,000)    |  |
| Finance income recognized  | 3,494,000                                   | 4,185,000   |  |
| Balance, end of period   | \$3,071,000                                 | \$6,010,000 |  |
| Finance income as a percentage of collections  | 86.8  | % 84.6 %    |  |

During the three months ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 the Company did not purchase any new portfolios.

As of *December 31*, 2018, the Company held consumer receivables acquired for liquidation from Peru and Colombia of \$1.8 million and \$0.9 million, respectively. The total amount of foreign consumer receivables acquired for liquidation was \$2.7 million, or 87.1% of the \$3.1 million in total consumer receivables held at *December 31*, 2018. Of the total consumer receivables *three* individual portfolios comprise 21%, 13% and 11% of the overall asset balance at *December 31*, 2018.

As of *September 30*, 2018, the Company held consumer receivables acquired for liquidation from Peru and Colombia of \$2.0 million and \$1.3 million, respectively. The total amount of foreign consumer receivables acquired for liquidation was \$3.3 million, or 88.7% of the total consumer receivables held of \$3.7 million at *September 30*, 2018. Of the total consumer receivables *three* individual portfolios comprise 20%, 11% and 11% of the overall asset balance at *September 30*, 2018.

As of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, 6.0% and 5.9% of the Company's total assets were related to its international operation, respectively. For the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, 4.9% and 2.2% of the Company's total revenue related to its international operation, respectively.

At *December 31*, 2018, approximately 30% of the Company's portfolio face value was serviced by *five* collection organizations. At *September 30*, 2018, approximately 31% of the Company's portfolio face value was serviced by *five* collection organizations. The Company has servicing agreements in place with these *five* collection organizations, as well as all of the Company's other *third* party collection agencies and attorneys that cover standard contingency fees and servicing of the accounts. While the 5 collection organizations represent only 30% and 31% as of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, respectively, of the Company's portfolio face value, it does represent approximately 87% and 87% of the Company's portfolio face value at all *third* party collection agencies and attorneys as of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, respectively.

The following table summarizes collections received by the Company's *third* party collection agencies and attorneys, less commissions and direct costs, for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

For the Three Months Ended

December 31,

2018 2017

Gross collections (1) \$8,220,000 \$8,992,000 Commissions and fees (2) 4,195,000 4,045,000 Net collections \$4,025,000 \$4,947,000

- (1) Gross collections include collections from *third* party collection agencies and attorneys, collections from in-house efforts and collections represented by account sales.
- Commissions are earned by *third* party collection agencies and attorneys, and include direct costs associated with the collection effort, generally court costs. In *December 2007* an arrangement was consummated with *one* servicer who also received a 3% fee on gross collections received by the Company in connection with the related portfolio purchase. The fee is charged for asset location and skip tracing in connection with this portfolio purchase.

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 4—Equity Method Investments

Acquisition of Equity Method Investment

On *December 28, 2011*, the Company entered into a joint venture, Pegasus Funding, LLC ("Pegasus"), with Pegasus Legal Funding, LLC ("PLF"). The Company had an 80% non-controlling interest in the joint venture from the date of formation through *January 12, 2018*. During this time period the Company had operational disagreements with PLF, resulting in the amendment of the Pegasus operating agreement, the execution of a liquidation agreement and finally the filing of an arbitration against PLF by the Company.

On *January 12, 2018*, the Company, ASFI and Fund Pegasus entered into a Settlement Agreement and Release (the "Settlement Agreement") by and among the Company, ASFI, Fund Pegasus, Pegasus, PLF, Max Alperovich, Alexander Khanas, Larry Stoddard, III, Louis Piccolo and A.L. Piccolo & Co., Inc., a New York corporation. The Settlement Agreement releases certain claims in exchange for, among other things, the parties' entry into the Purchase Agreement (defined below).

On *January 12, 2018, ASFI* entered into a Membership Interest Purchase Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement) with PLF. Under the Purchase Agreement, ASFI bought PLF's ownership interests of Pegasus, which was 20% of the issued and outstanding limited liability company interests of Pegasus, for an aggregate purchase price of \$1.8 million. As a result of the execution of the Purchase Agreement, ASFI became the owner of 100% of the limited liability company interests of Pegasus, and recognized a loss on acquisition of \$1.4 million, which is recorded in the Company's consolidated financial statements. Immediately on acquisition, the Company changed the name from Pegasus to Sylvave.

The fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the acquisition date are as follows:

Cash \$5,748,000
Personal injury claim advances portfolio 14,571,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses (664,000)

Total net assets acquired \$19,655,000

As a result of the purchase of PLF's 20% interest in Pegasus on *January 12, 2018*, under the Purchase Agreement, beginning on *January 13, 2018*, the Company consolidated the financial statements of Sylvave.

The results of operations of the Company's historical equity method investment in Pegasus are summarized below:

Condensed Statement of Operations

Information
For the
Three
Months
Ended
December
31,
201**2**017
\$—\$499,000

Personal injury claims income \$-\$499,000Operating expenses -59,000Income from operations \$-\$440,000

Earnings from equity method investment \$—\$352,000

# Serlefin

Serlefin Peru is the Company's 49% owned joint venture. The other 51% is owned by *three* individuals who share common ownership with Serlefin BPO&O Serlefin S.A. ("Serlefin"). Each owner maintains voting rights equivalent to their share ownership, and the 51% shareholders collectively manage the operations of the business. Based on the Company's ownership and voting rights, the Company lacks requisite control of Serlefin Peru, and therefore accounts for its investment in Serlefin Peru under the equity method of accounting.

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## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

**Note 4—Equity Method Investments** (continued)

Additionally, the Company and Serlefin jointly purchase international consumer debt portfolios under a purchase agreement. The Company and Serlefin purchase the portfolios on a pro-rata basis of 80% and 20%, respectively. The purchased portfolios are transferred to an administrative and payment trust, where the Company and Serlefin are trustees. Serlefin provides collection services to the trust, and receives a performance fee determined by the parties for each loan portfolio acquired. Serlefin received approximately \$0.3 million and \$0.1 million in performance fees for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The carrying value of the investment in Serlefin Peru was \$0.3 million and \$0.2 million as of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, respectively. The cumulative net loss from our investment in Serlefin Peru from the date of the initial investment through *December 31*, 2018 was approximately \$0.2 million, and was *not* significant to the Company's consolidated statement of operations.

# Note 5—Personal Injury Claims Funding

# Simia and Sylvave

On *November 11*, 2016, the Company formed Simia, a wholly owned subsidiary, to continue its personal injury claims funding business following the Company's decision *not* to renew its joint venture with PLF. Simia commenced operation in *January 2017*, and conducts its business solely in the United States. As of *December 31*, 2018, Simia had a personal injury claims portfolio of \$2.2 million, and recognized revenue for the *three* months then ended of \$15,000. As of *September 30*, 2018, Simia had a personal injury claims portfolio of \$2.3 million, and recognized revenue of \$0.1 million for the *three* months then ended *December 31*, 2017.

As of *December 31*, 2018, Sylvave had a personal injury claims portfolio of \$6.6 million, and recognized revenue for the *three* months then ended of \$699,000. As of *September 30*, 2018, Sylvave had a personal injury claims portfolio

of \$8.4 million. For the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2017, Sylvave was accounted for as a equity method investment.

As noted in Note 4 - Equity Method Investments, effective *January 12, 2018*, the Company now accounts for Sylvave, its wholly owned subsidiary, on a consolidated basis. Simia and Sylvave remain in operation to continue to collect on their outstanding personal injury claim portfolios, but will *not* be funding any new advances to claimants.

## **Practical Funding**

The Company formed a new wholly owned subsidiary, Practical Funding, on *March 16*, 2018 to continue in the personal injury claims funding business. To date, Practical Funding has *not* funded any advances on personal injury claims.

The following tables summarize the changes in the balance sheet account of personal injury claim portfolios held by Simia and Sylvave, net of reserves, for the following periods:

|                                 | December     | December    |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                 | 31, 2018     | 31, 2017    |
| Balance, beginning of period    | \$10,745,000 | \$3,704,000 |
| Personal claim advances         | _            | 60,000      |
| Provision for losses            | (203,000)    | (475,000)   |
| Personal injury claims income   | 713,000      | 141,000     |
| Personal injury claims receipts | (2,442,000)  | (280,000)   |
| Balance, end of period          | \$8,813,000  | \$3,150,000 |

The Company recognized personal injury claims income of \$0.7 million and \$0.1 million for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The Company has recorded a net reserve against its investment in personal injury claims of \$7.1 million as of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018.

ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 6—Non Recourse Debt

Non-Recourse Debt -Bank of Montreal ("BMO")

In *March* 2007, Palisades XVI borrowed approximately \$227 million under a Receivables Financing Agreement, as amended in *July* 2007, *December* 2007, *May* 2008, *February* 2009, *October* 2010 and *August* 2013 (the "RFA") from BMO, in order to finance the Portfolio Purchase which had a purchase price of \$300 million. The original term of the agreement was *three* years. This term was extended by each of the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Amendments and the most recent agreement signed in *August* 2013.

On *August 7, 2013*, Palisades XVI, a *100%* owned bankruptcy remote subsidiary, entered into a Settlement Agreement and Omnibus Amendment (the "BMO Settlement Agreement") with BMO as an amendment to the RFA. In consideration for a \$15 million prepayment funded by the Company, BMO agreed to significantly reduce minimum monthly collection requirements and the interest rate. If and when BMO receives the next \$15 million of collections from the Portfolio Purchase or from voluntary prepayments by the Company, less certain credits for payments made prior to the consummation of the BMO Settlement Agreement (the "Remaining Amount"), Palisades XVI and its affiliates would be automatically released from liability in connection with the RFA (subject to customary exceptions). A condition on the release was Palisades XVI's agreement to grant BMO, as of the time of the payment of the Remaining Amount, the right to receive *30%* of net collections from the Portfolio Purchase once Palisades XVI has received from future net collections, the sum of \$15 million plus voluntary prepayments included in the payment of the Remaining Amount (the "Income Interest"). On *June 3, 2014*, Palisades XVI paid the Remaining Amount. The final principal payment of \$2.9 million included a voluntary prepayment of \$1.9 million provided from funds of the Company. Accordingly, Palisades XVI was entitled to receive \$16.9 million of future collections from the Portfolio Purchase before BMO would be entitled to receive any payments with respect to its Income Interest.

During the month of *June 2016*, the Company received the balance of the \$16.9 million and, as of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, the Company recorded a liability to BMO of approximately \$117,000 for both periods, which has been recorded in accounts payable and accrued expenses on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. The funds were subsequently remitted to BMO on *January 10*, 2019 and *October 10*, 2018, respectively. The liability to BMO is recorded when actual collections are received.

## **Note 7—Discontinued Operations**

On *December 31, 2013*, the Company acquired 80% ownership of CBC and its affiliate, CBC Management Services, LLC for approximately \$5.9 million.

On *December 31*, 2015, the Company acquired the remaining 20% ownership of CBC for \$1.8 million, through the issuance of restricted stock valued at approximately \$1.0 million and \$0.8 million in cash. Each of the *two* original principals of CBC received 61,652 shares of restricted stock at a fair market value of \$7.95 per share and \$0.4 million in cash. An aggregate of 123,304 shares of restricted stock were issued as part of the transaction.

On *January 1*, 2016, the Company renewed the expiring *two*-year employment agreements of the *two* CBC principals for *one* year terms. The employment contracts of the original *two* principals expired at the end of *December 2016*. The Company did *not* renew those contracts. Ryan Silverman was appointed CEO/General Counsel effective *January 1*, 2017.

During *November 2017*, a competitor of CBC alleged that CBC had unlawfully purchased certain of the competitor's trade secrets and customer lists from intermediaries who allegedly arranged and/or paid for said materials from the competitor. CBC denied any wrongdoing and disclaimed liability. The parties settled the matter for a payment of \$0.5 million on or about *November 22*, 2017, in exchange for a complete release.

On *December 13*, 2017, the Company entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (the "Securities Purchase Agreement) with CBC Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Buyer"). Under the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Company sold all of the issued and outstanding equity capital of CBC for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$10.3 million. Of the aggregate purchase price, approximately \$4.5 million was paid in cash, and \$5.8 million was paid under a promissory note at an annual interest rate of 7% to be paid quarterly to the Company and secured by a *first* priority security interest in and lien on such Buyer's affiliates' rights to certain servicing fees. See Note 8 - Note Receivable. The remaining amount of the aggregate purchase price was paid as reimbursement of certain invoices of CBC. The Company recognized a loss of approximately \$2.4 million on the above sale of CBC as of *September 30*, 2017.

As a result of the sale of CBC, all prior periods presented in the Company's consolidated financial statements will account for CBC as a discontinued operation. This determination resulted in the reclassification of the assets and

liabilities comprising the structured settlement business to assets related to discontinued operations in the consolidated balance sheets, and a corresponding adjustment to our consolidated statements of operations to reflect discontinued operations for all periods presented.

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## **Note 7—Discontinued Operations** (Continued)

As of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, the Company had *no* assets or liabilities designated as discontinued operations. For the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, the Company designated as discontinued operations reported a loss, net of income tax benefit of \$0 and \$80,000, respectively.

The following table presents the operating results for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, for the components of the Company designated as discontinued operations:

|   | Three months ended Decembanber 31, 31,                                |
|---|---|
| Revenues:   | 201 <b>2</b> 017  |
| Unrealized gain on structured settlements Interest income on structured settlements Total revenues Other income   | \$—\$244,000<br>— 2,005,000<br>— 2,249,000<br>— 11,000<br>— 2,260,000 |
| Expenses: General and administrative expenses Interest expense  | — 1,560,000<br>— 824,000  |
|   | <i>- 2,384,000</i>  |
| Loss from discontinued operations before income tax<br>Income tax benefit from discontinuing operations<br>Loss from discontinued operations, net of income tax | — (44,000 )   |

Prior to its sale, we, through CBC, purchased periodic payments under structured settlements and annuity policies from individuals in exchange for a lump sum payment. The Company elected to carry the structured settlements at fair value. Unearned income on structured settlements is recognized as interest income using the effective interest method over the life of the related structured settlement. Changes in fair value are recorded in unrealized gain (loss) on structured settlements in the Company's statements of operations. Unrealized gains on structured settlements is comprised of both unrealized gains resulting from fair market valuation at the date of acquisition of the structured settlements and the subsequent fair value adjustments resulting from the change in the discount rate. Of the \$0.2 million of unrealized gains recognized for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2017, approximately \$0.2 million is due to day *one* gains on new structured settlements financed during the period. There were *no* other changes in assumptions during the period.

#### Note 8 —Note Receivable

Pursuant to the Securities Purchase Agreement, CBC sold to the Buyer all of the issued and outstanding equity capital of CBC for \$10.3 million. In conjunction with this sale the Company received \$4.5 million in cash, and a Promissory Note (the "Note") for \$5.8 million from the Buyer. The Note bears interest at 7% per annum, payable in quarterly installments of principle and interest through *December 13*, 2020, and is secured pursuant to a Security Agreement (the "Security Agreement") with an affiliate of the Buyer. Under the Security Agreement the Company has a *first* priority security interest and lien on all servicing fees received by the affiliate. As of *December 31*, 2018, the Buyer is current on all its obligations under the Note, and the principle amount outstanding on this Note at *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018 is \$3.8 million and \$4.3 million, respectively. For the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, the Company recorded \$89,000 and \$21,000 in interest income, respectively, which has been classified as other income in the Company's consolidated statements of operations, associated with this note. See Note 7 - Discontinued Operations.

#### Note 9 — Settlements

In *August 2014*, the Company filed a lawsuit in Delaware state court against a *third* party servicer arising from the *third* party servicer's failure to pay the Company certain amounts that are due the Company under a servicing agreement. The *third* party servicer filed a counterclaim in the Delaware action alleging that the Company owes certain amounts to the *third* party servicer for court costs pursuant to an alleged arrangement between the companies. On or about *July 12, 2018*, the parties agreed to settle the action pursuant to a settlement agreement and release, which provides for, among other things, the payment by the *third* party servicer of *\$4.4* million to the Company pursuant to an agreed upon schedule with a lump sum payment to be made at the *third* anniversary of the agreement.

|  | <b>ASTA</b> | <b>FUNDING</b> | . INC. AND | <b>SUBSIDIARIES</b> |
|--|-------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|
|--|-------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

**Note 9** — **Settlements** (continued)

These fee based settlements are required to total \$2.4 million and \$4.4 million by the *second* and *third* anniversaries, respectively. To the extent that these fee based settlement fees are less than these amounts, the servicer is required to make lump sum true-up payments.

The Company determined the fair value of this settlement using (i) historical collection history to estimate the fee based settlement fees that are expected to be received each month from the servicer; (ii) the contractual true-up dates, discussed above, in order to estimate the anticipated true-up payments that will be received from the servicer on the second and third anniversaries; and (iii) an imputed interest rate of 8.5%.

As of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, the Company has a settlement receivable due from this *third* party servicer of \$2.9 million and \$3.3 million, respectively. During the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018, the Company received \$0.5 million in payments from this *third* party servicer. For the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, the Company recorded \$68,000 and \$0 in interest income, which is included in other income on the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

## Note 10—Commitments and Contingencies

## **Employment Agreements**

On *March 10, 2016*, the Company entered into an employment agreement with an executive of the Company. Under this agreement, the executive will receive a base salary of \$275,000, subject to annual increases, and will be eligible to receive cash and non-cash bonuses. The agreement has an 18 month non-compete and non-solicitation provision and has a *one* year term, and the term will be extended by *one* year on each anniversary date of the agreement.

## Leases

The Company leases its facilities in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, Houston, TX, and Louisville, KY. The lease in Louisville, KY expired in *December 2018* and was *not* renewed. Rent expense for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017 was \$0.1 million.

#### Legal Matters

In the ordinary course of our business, we are involved in numerous legal proceedings. We regularly initiate collection lawsuits, using our network of *third* party law firms, against consumers. Also, consumers occasionally initiate litigation against us, in which they allege that we have violated a federal or state law in the process of collecting their account. We do *not* believe that these ordinary course matters are material to our business and financial condition. The Company is *not* involved in any other material litigation in which we are a defendant.

#### Note 11—Income Taxes

At the end of each interim reporting period, the Company estimates its effective income tax rate expected to be applicable for the full year. The estimate is used in providing for income taxes on a year-to-date basis and *may* change in subsequent interim periods. The Company's effective tax rate from operations for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 was 27.9%, compared to 35.4% in the same period of the prior year. The effective rate for fiscal 2019 and 2018 differed from the U.S. federal statutory rate of 21% and 28%, respectively, primarily due to state income taxes, other permanent differences, and the *first* full year the reduced federal tax rate of 21% was applicable.

On *December 22*, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") was enacted into law in the United States. The Tax Act significantly revises corporate income tax law by, among other things, lowering the corporate income tax rates from 35% to 21%. Under GAAP, deferred taxes must be adjusted for enacted changes in tax laws or rates during the period in which new tax legislation is enacted. During the year ended *September 30*, 2018, tax expense of approximately \$4.4 million was recorded, representing the revaluation of deferred tax assets and liabilities as a result of the lower corporate tax rate established by the Tax Act.

The Company files income tax returns in the U.S federal jurisdiction, various state jurisdictions, and various foreign countries. The Company does *not* have any uncertain tax positions. The Company's federal tax returns for the years *September 30, 2014* and *2015* are currently being audited by the Internal Revenue Service.

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## Note 12—Net Income (Loss) per Share

Basic per share data is determined by dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average shares outstanding during the period. Diluted per share data is computed by dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average shares outstanding, assuming all dilutive potential common shares were issued. The assumed proceeds from the exercise of dilutive options are calculated using the treasury stock method based on the average market price for the period.

The following table presents the computation of basic and diluted per share data for the *three* months ended *December* 31, 2018 and 2017:

|   | For the<br>Three                      | For the<br>Three                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
|   | Months<br>Ended                       | Months<br>Ended                        |
| Income (Loss) from continuing operations  | <b>December</b> 31, 2018 \$ 1,275,000 | <b>December 31, 2017</b> \$(2,589,000) |
| Loss from discontinued operations   | _                                     | (80,000 )                              |
| Net Income (Loss)   | \$1,275,000                           | \$(2,669,000)                          |
| Basic earnings (loss) per common share from continuing operations<br>Basic loss per common share from discontinued operations<br>Basic earnings (loss) per share        | \$0.19<br>—<br>\$0.19                 | \$(0.39 )<br>(0.01 )<br>\$(0.40 )      |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per common share from continuing operations<br>Diluted loss per common share from discontinuing operations<br>Diluted earnings (loss) per share | \$0.19<br>—<br>\$0.19                 | \$(0.39 )<br>(0.01 )<br>\$(0.40 )      |

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:

 Basic
 6,685,415
 6,623,815

 Dilutive effect of stock options
 307
 —

 Diluted
 6,685,722
 6,623,815

## Note 13—Stock Option Plans

#### 2012 Stock Option and Performance Award Plan

On *February 7, 2012*, the Company adopted the *2012* Stock Option and Performance Award Plan (the "2012 Plan"), which was approved by the stockholders of the Company on *March 21, 2012*. The *2012* Plan replaced the Equity Compensation Plan (as defined below).

The 2012 Plan provides the Company with flexibility with respect to equity awards by providing for grants of stock awards (i.e. restricted or unrestricted), stock purchase rights and stock appreciation rights, in addition to the granting of stock options.

The Company authorized 2,000,000 shares of Common Stock for issuance under the 2012 Plan. Under the 2012 Plan, the Company has granted options to purchase an aggregate of 540,800 shares, awarded 245,625 shares of restricted stock, and has cancelled 110,102 options, leaving 1,323,677 shares available as of December 31, 2018. At December 31, 2018, 57 of the Company's employees were able to participate in the 2012 Plan.

#### **Equity Compensation Plan**

On *December 1, 2005*, the Company adopted the Equity Compensation Plan (the "Equity Compensation Plan"), which was approved by the stockholders of the Company on *March 1, 2006*. The Equity Compensation Plan was adopted to supplement the Company's *2002* Stock Option Plan (as defined below).

In addition to permitting the grant of stock options as are permitted under the 2002 Stock Option Plan, the Equity Compensation Plan allowed the Company flexibility with respect to equity awards by also providing for grants of stock awards (i.e. restricted or unrestricted), stock purchase rights and stock appreciation rights.

## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

# Note 13—Stock Option Plans (Continued)

The Company authorized 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock for issuance under the Equity Compensation Plan. As of *March 21*, 2012, *no* more awards could be issued under this plan.

## 2002 Stock Option Plan

On *March 5*, 2002, the Company adopted the 2002 Stock Option Plan (the "2002 Plan"), which was approved by the stockholders of the Company on *May 1*, 2002. The 2002 Plan was adopted in order to attract and retain qualified directors, officers and employees of, and consultants to, the Company.

The 2002 Plan authorized the granting of incentive stock options (as defined in Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code")) and non-qualified stock options to eligible employees of the Company, including officers and directors of the Company (whether or *not* employees) and consultants of the Company.

The Company authorized 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock under the 2002 Plan. As of March 5, 2012, no more awards could be issued under this plan.

#### **Stock Based Compensation**

The Company accounts for stock-based employee compensation under ASC *No.* 718, Compensation — Stock Compensation ("ASC 718"). ASC 718 requires that compensation expense associated with stock options and other stock based awards be recognized in the condensed consolidated statement of operations.

# **Summary of the Plans**

Compensation expense for stock options and restricted stock is recognized over the requisite vesting or service period. Compensation expense for restricted stock is based upon the market price of the shares underlying the awards on the grant date.

The following table summarizes stock option transactions under the 2012 Plan, the Equity Compensation Plan and the 2002 Plan (collectively the "Plans"):

|  | Three Months Ended December 31, |  |                        |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|--|
|  | 2018                            |  | 2017                   |  |  |
|  | Number<br>Of<br>Shares          | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise<br>Price | Number<br>of<br>Shares | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise<br>Price |  |
| Outstanding options at the beginning of period | 728,867                         | \$ 8.17                                  | 880,567                | \$ 8.05                                  |  |
| Options forfeited/cancelled                    | (334)                           | 7.93                                     | (500)                  | 8.02                                     |  |
| Outstanding options at the end of period       | 728,533                         | \$ 8.17                                  | 880,067                | \$ 8.05                                  |  |
| Exercisable options at the end of period       | 728,533                         | \$ 8.17                                  | 861,560                | \$ 8.05                                  |  |

The following table summarizes information about the Plans outstanding options as of December 31, 2018:

|          |                | Options (                          | Outstanding  |  | Options<br>Exercisable              |                                 |  |  |
|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Range of | Exercise Price | Number<br>of<br>Shares<br>Outstand | Weighted<br>Remaining<br>Contractual<br>Life (in<br>ling<br>Years) | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise<br>Price | Number<br>of<br>Shares<br>Exercisal | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise |  |  |
| \$2.8751 | - \$5.7500     | 1,200                              | 0.3  | \$ 2.95                                  | 1,200                               | \$ 2.95                         |  |  |
| \$5.7501 | - \$8.6250     | 617,833                            | 3.5  | 7.97                                     | 617,833                             | 7.97                            |  |  |
| \$8.6251 | - \$11.5000    | 109,500                            | 4.1  | 9.37                                     | 109,500                             | 9.37                            |  |  |
|          |                | 728,533                            | 3.5  | \$ 8.17                                  | 728,533                             | \$ 8.17                         |  |  |

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 13—Stock Option Plans (Continued)

The Company recognized \$7,000 and \$79,000 of compensation expense related to the stock options vested during the *three* month periods ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017, respectively. As of *December 31*, 2018, there was *no* unrecognized compensation cost related to stock option awards.

The intrinsic value of the outstanding and exercisable options as of *December 31, 2018* was approximately \$2,000. The weighted average remaining contractual life of exercisable options is 3.5 years. There were *no* options exercised during the *three* month periods ended *December 31, 2018* and 2017. The fair value of the stock options that vested during the *three* month periods ended *December 31, 2018* and 2017 was approximately \$76,000 and \$488,000, respectively. There were *no* options granted during the *three* months ended *December 31, 2018* and 2017.

The Company did *not* grant any restricted stock awards during the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017. As of *December 31*, 2018 and *September 30*, 2018, there was *no* unrecognized compensation cost related to restricted stock awards.

# Note 14—Stockholders' Equity

The Company has 5,000,000 authorized preferred shares with a par value of \$0.01 per share. The Board of Directors are authorized to divide the authorized shares of Preferred Stock into *one* or more series, each of which shall be so designated as to distinguish the shares thereof from the shares of all other series and classes.

There were no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2018 and 2017.

Dividends are declared at the discretion of the Board and depend upon the Company's financial condition, operating results, capital requirements and other factors that the Board deems relevant. In addition, agreements with the Company's lenders *may*, from time to time, restrict the ability to pay dividends. As of *December 31*, 2018, there were *no* such restrictions. *No* dividends were declared during the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017.

#### Note 15—Fair Value of Financial Measurements and Disclosures

#### Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The estimated fair value of the Company's financial instruments is summarized as follows:

|   | December 31, 2018  |               | September 3        | 0, 2018        |
|---|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
|   | Carrying<br>Amount | Fair<br>Value | Carrying<br>Amount | Fair<br>Value  |
| Financial assets  | Amount             | v aluc        | Amount             | value          |
| Cash equivalents (Level 1)                              | \$969,000          | \$969,000     | \$1,786,000        | \$1,786,000    |
| Investments in equity securities (Level 1)              | 7,799,000          | 7,799,000     | 7,575,000          | 7,575,000 (1)  |
| Available-for-sale debt securities (Level 1)            | 35,759,000         | 35,759,000    | 30,479,000         | 30,479,000 (1) |
| Consumer receivables acquired for liquidation (Level 3) | 3,071,000          | 26,218,000    | 3,749,000          | 27,574,000     |

(1) At September 30, 2018, the Company reported investments in equity securities and available-for-sale debt securities as a single line item on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. With the Company's adoption of ASU No. 016-01 on October 1, 2018, the Company has included the current breakout above for comparability purposes only.

Disclosure of the estimated fair values of financial instruments often requires the use of estimates. The Company uses the following methods and assumptions to estimate the fair value of financial instruments:

Cash equivalents - The Company considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with an original maturity of *three* months or less to be cash equivalents. The carrying amount of cash equivalents approximates fair value.

Investments in equity securities - The investments in equity consist of mutual funds that are valued based on quoted prices in active markets.

Available-for-sale debt securities - The available-for-sale debt securities consist of U.S. treasury bills that are valued based on quoted prices in active markets. The U.S. treasury bills have been classified as available for sale by the Company, as they are deemed to be short term investments, and can be liquidated as needed by the Company.

## ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Note 15—Fair Value of Financial Measurements and Disclosures (Continued)

The Company's investments in equity securities and available-for-sale debt securities are classified as Level 1 financial instruments based on the classifications described above. The Company did *not* have any transfers into (out of) Level 1 investments during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018. The Company had no Level 2 or Level 3 available-for-sale investments during the three months ended December 31, 2018.

Consumer receivables acquired for liquidation - The Company computed the fair value of the consumer receivables acquired for liquidation using its proprietary forecasting model. The Company's forecasting model utilizes a discounted cash flow analysis. The Company's cash flows are an estimate of collections for consumer receivables based on variables fully described in Note 3 - Consumer Receivables Acquired for Liquidation. These cash flows are discounted to determine the fair value.

## Note 16—Segment Reporting

The Company operates through strategic business units that are aggregated into *three* reportable segments: Consumer receivables, personal injury claims and social security disability advocacy. The *three* reportable segments consist of the following:

Consumer receivables - This segment is engaged in the business of purchasing, managing for its own account and servicing distressed consumer receivables, including judgment receivables, charged off receivables and semi-performing receivables. Judgment receivables are accounts where outside attorneys have secured judgments directly against the consumer. Primary charged-off receivables are accounts that have been written-off by the originators and may have been previously serviced by collection agencies. Semi-performing receivables are accounts where the debtor is currently making partial or irregular monthly payments, but the accounts may have been written-off by the originators. Distressed consumer receivables are the unpaid debts of individuals to banks, finance companies and other credit providers. A large portion of our distressed consumer receivables are MasterCard ®, Visa ® and other credit card accounts which were charged-off by the issuers or providers for non-payment. We acquire these and other consumer receivable portfolios at substantial discounts to their face values. The discounts are based on

the characteristics (issuer, account size, debtor location and age of debt) of the underlying accounts of each portfolio. Recently, the Company's efforts have been in the international areas (mainly South America), as we have curtailed our active purchasing of consumer receivables in the United States. The Company holds consumers receivable acquired for liquidation in both Colombia and Peru of approximately \$3.3 million. The business conducts its activities primarily under the name Palisades Collection, LLC.

Personal injury claims – This segment is comprised of purchased interests in personal injury claims from claimants who are a party in personal injury litigation or claims. The Company advances to each claimant funds on a non-recourse basis at an agreed upon interest rate, in anticipation of a future settlement. The interest in each claim purchased consists of the right to receive, from such claimant, part of the proceeds or recoveries which such claimant receives by reason of a settlement, judgment or award with respect to such claimant's claim. The Company historically funded personal injury claims in Simia and Sylvave. The Company formed a new wholly owned subsidiary, Practical Funding, on *March 16*, 2018 to continue in the personal injury claims funding business. To date, Practical Funding has *not* funded any advances on personal injury claims.

Simia commenced operations in *January 2017*, and conducts its business solely in the United States. Simia obtained its business from external brokers and internal sales professionals soliciting attorneys and law firms who represent claimants who have personal injury claims. Business was also obtained from its website and through attorneys. The Company accounted for its investment in Sylvave under the equity method of accounting through *January 12*, 2018, for subsequent periods the Company includes the financial results of Sylvave in its consolidated statement of operations. Simia and Sylvave are *not* funding any new advances, but continue to collect on outstanding personal injury claim advances in the ordinary course.

Social Security benefit advocacy – GAR Disability and Five Star are advocacy groups representing individuals throughout the United States in their claims for social security disability and supplemental security income benefits from the Social Security and Veterans Administration.

Certain non-allocated administrative costs, interest income and various other non-operating income and expenses are reflected in Corporate. Corporate assets include cash and cash equivalents, investments in equity securities and available-for-sale debt securities, a note receivable, property and equipment, goodwill, deferred taxes and other assets.

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

# NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## Note 16—Segment Reporting (continued)

The following table shows results by reporting segment for the *three* months ended *December 31*, 2018 and 2017:

|                                       |                        | Social | Personal   |                 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------|-----------------|
| (Dollars in millions)                 | Consumer<br>Receivable |        | Injury     | Corporate Total |
|                                       | Disability<br>Advocacy |        | Claims (2) | (3)             |
| Three Months Ended December 31, 2018: |                        |        |            |                 |
| Revenues                              | \$ 3.5                 | \$ 1.3 | \$ 0.7     | \$ — \$5.5      |
| Other income                          | 0.1                    | _      | <u> </u>   | 0.1 0.2         |
| Segment profit (loss)                 | 2.9                    | 0.4    | 0.5        | (2.1 ) 1.7      |
| Segment Assets (1)                    | 12.0                   | 1.4    | 10.1       | 64.2 87.7       |
| 2017:                                 |                        |        |            |                 |
| Revenues                              | \$ 4.2                 | \$ 0.9 | \$ 0.1     | \$ — \$5.2.4    |
| Other income                          | _                      | _      | _          | 0.1 0.1         |
| Segment profit (loss)                 | 3.7                    | _      | (0.1)      | (2.2) 1.4       |
| Segment Assets (1)                    | 19.7                   | 1.1    | 55.6       | 39.3 115.7      |

The Company does *not* have any intersegment revenue transactions.

The Company recorded Pegasus as an equity investment in its consolidated financial statements through *January* 

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes other amounts in other line items on the consolidated balance sheet.

<sup>(2) 12, 2018.</sup> Commencing on *January 13*, 2018, Sylvave is consolidated in the Company's financial statements. For segment reporting the Company has included its pro-rated share of the earnings and losses from its investment under the Personal Injury Claims segment.

<sup>(3)</sup> Corporate is *not* part of the *three* reportable segments, as certain expenses and assets are *not* earmarked to any specific operating segment.

# ASTA FUNDING, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

# NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

**Note 17 - Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)** 

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) consists of:

|   | Three Mo: 31, 2018 | nths Ended   | December  | 2018              | ed Septemb    | er 30,   |
|---|--------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|----------|
|   | Unrealized         |              |           | Unrealized        | 1             |          |
|   |                    | Foreign      |           |                   | Foreign       |          |
|   | gain<br>(loss) on  | currency     | Total     | gain<br>(loss) on | currency      | Total    |
|   | marketable         | translation, |           | marketable        | etranslation, |          |
|   | 11141110141010     | net          |           | 11141110141011    | net           |          |
|   | securities         |              |           | securities        |               |          |
| Beginning Balance   | \$(10,000)         | \$45,000     | \$35,000  | \$7,000           | \$ 11,000     | \$18,000 |
| Cumulative effect adjustment for adoption of ASU No. 2016-01, net of tax of \$5,000   | 10,000             | -            | 10,000    | -                 | -             | -        |
| Adjusted opening balance  | \$-                | \$45,000     | \$45,000  | \$7,000           | \$ 11,000     | \$18,000 |
| Change in unrealized (losses) gains on foreign currency translation, net of tax benefit/(expense) of (\$25,000) and (\$17,000) at December 31 2018, and September 30, 2018, respectively. | i -                | 80,000       | 80,000    | -                 | 34,000        | 34,000   |
| Change in unrealized (losses) gains on marketable securities, net of tax benefit/ (expense) of (\$52,000) and \$9,000 at December 31, 2018, and September 30, 2018, respectively.         | 135,000            | -            | 135,000   | (17,000)          | -             | (17,000) |
| Net current-period other comprehensive income (loss)  | 135,000            | 80,000       | 215,000   | (17,000)          | 34,000        | \$17,000 |
| Ending balance  | \$135,000          | \$ 125,000   | \$260,000 | \$(10,000)        | \$ 45,000     | \$35,000 |

# Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### **Caution Regarding Forward Looking Statements**

This Form 10-Q contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21 E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements other than statements of historical facts included or incorporated by reference in this report, including without limitation, statements regarding our future financial position, business strategy, budgets, projected revenues, projected costs and plans and objective of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "expects," "intends," "plans," "projects," "estimates," "anticipates," or "believes" or the negative thereof or any variation there on or similar terminology or expressions.

We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees and are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Important factors which could materially affect our results and our future performance include, without limitation, the restatement of previously issued financial statements, the identified material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting and our ability remediate those material weaknesses, our ability to purchase defaulted consumer receivables at appropriate prices, changes in government regulations that affect our ability to collect sufficient amounts on our defaulted consumer receivables, our ability to employ and retain qualified employees, changes in the credit or capital markets, changes in interest rates, deterioration in economic conditions, negative press regarding the debt collection industry which may have a negative impact on a debtor's willingness to pay the debt we acquire, and statements of assumption underlying any of the foregoing, as well as other factors set forth under "Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018.

All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us, or persons acting on our behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by the foregoing. Except as required by law, we assume no duty to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

#### Overview

Asta Funding, Inc. ("Asta"), a Delaware Corporation, together with our wholly owned significant operating subsidiaries Palisades Collection, LLC, Palisades Acquisition XVI, LLC ("Palisades XVI"), Palisades Acquisition XIX, LLC

("Palisades XIX"), Palisades Acquisition XXIII, LLC ("Palisades XXIII"), VATIV Recovery Solutions LLC ("VATIV"), ASFI Pegasus Holdings, LLC ("ASFI"), Fund Pegasus, LLC ("Fund Pegasus"), GAR Disability Advocates, LLC ("GAR Disability Advocates"), Five Star Veterans Disability, LLC ("Five Star"), EMIRIC, LLC ("EMIRIC"), Simia Capital, LLC ("Simia"), Sylvave, LLC ("Sylvave") (formerly known as Pegasus Funding, LLC ("Pegasus")), Practical Funding LLC ("Practical Funding"), and other subsidiaries, which are not all wholly owned (the "Company," "we" or "us"), are engaged in several business segments in the financial services industry including funding of personal injury claims, through the our wholly owned subsidiaries Sylvave, Simia and Practical Funding, social security disability advocacy through our wholly owned subsidiaries GAR Disability Advocates and Five Star and the business of purchasing, managing for our own account and servicing distressed consumer receivables, including charged off receivables, and semi-performing receivables.

For the period October 1, 2017 to January 12, 2018, Pegasus was 80% owned, but not controlled, and accounted for under the equity method. On January 12, 2018 ("Date of Acquisition"), we acquired the remaining 20% minority interest and a controlling financial interest, in Pegasus and changed its name to Sylvave and now own 100% of Sylvave. Commencing on the Date of Acquisition, we consolidated the financial results of this entity.

We operate principally in the United States in three reportable business segments: consumer receivables, social security disability advocacy and personal injury claims. We previously operated a fourth segment when we engaged in the structured settlements business through our wholly owned subsidiary CBC Settlement Funding, LLC ("CBC"), which we sold on December 13, 2017.

As a result of the sale of CBC, all periods presented in our consolidated financial statements account for CBC as a discontinued operation. This determination resulted in the reclassification of the historical assets and liabilities comprising the structured settlement business to assets and liabilities related to discontinued operations in the condensed consolidated balance sheets, and a corresponding adjustment to our condensed consolidated statements of operations to reflect discontinued operations for all periods presented. See Note 7 - Discontinued Operations in our notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

For a detailed description of our segments, please read Note 16 – Segment Reporting, in our notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

## **Financial Information About Operating Segments**

The consumer receivables segment, the personal injury claims segment and the social security benefit advocacy segment each accounted for 10% or more of consolidated net revenue for the three months ended December 31, 2018. The consumer receivables segment and the social security benefit advocacy segment each accounted for 10% or more of consolidated net revenue for the 3 months ended December 31, 2017. The personal injury claims segment accounted for its investment in Sylvave under the equity method of accounting through January 12, 2018, for subsequent periods we included the financial results of Sylvave in our consolidated statement of operations, while Simia is a consolidated entity. The following table summarizes total revenues by percentage from our three lines of business for the three months ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

|                                       | Three<br>Ended<br>Decer | d  |       |    |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----|-------|----|
|                                       | 2018                    |    | 2017  |    |
| Finance income (consumer receivables) | 63.9                    | %  | 75.2  | %  |
| Personal injury claims income         | 13.0                    | %  | _     | %  |
| Disability fee income                 | 23.1                    | %  | 24.8  | %  |
| Total revenues                        | 100.0                   | )% | 100.0 | )% |

Information about the results of each of our reportable segments for the three month periods ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, reconciled to the consolidated results, are set forth below. Separate segment MD&A is not provided, as segment revenue corresponds to the revenue presented in our condensed consolidated statement of operations, and material expense items are not allocable to any specific segment.

|                                       |             |         | Social                 |         | Personal   |           |       |  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------|------------------------|---------|------------|-----------|-------|--|
| (Dollars in millions)                 |             | onsumer | Se                     | ecurity | Injury     | Corporate | Total |  |
| (Donars in ininions)                  | Receivables |         | Disability<br>Advocacy |         | Claims (2) | (3)       | 13441 |  |
| Three Months Ended December 31, 2018: |             |         |                        |         |            |           |       |  |
| Revenues                              | \$          | 3.5     | \$                     | 1.3     | \$ 0.7     | \$ —      | \$5.5 |  |
| Other income                          |             | 0.1     |                        |         |            | 0.1       | 0.2   |  |
| Segment profit (loss)                 |             | 2.9     |                        | 0.4     | 0.5        | (2.1      | 1.7   |  |
| Segment Assets(1) 2017:               |             | 12.0    |                        | 1.4     | 10.1       | 64.2      | 87.7  |  |

| Revenues              | \$ 4.2 | \$ 0.9 | \$ 0.1 | \$ —   | \$5.2 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Other income          | _      |        |        | 0.1    | 0.1   |
| Segment profit (loss) | 3.7    |        | (0.1   | ) (2.2 | ) 1.4 |
| Segment Assets(1)     | 19.7   | 1.1    | 55.6   | 39.3   | 115.7 |

We do not have any intersegment revenue transactions.

- (1) Includes other amounts in other line items on the consolidated balance sheet.
  - We recorded Pegasus as an equity investment in our consolidated financial statements through January 12, 2018.
- (2) Commencing on January 13, 2018, Sylvave is consolidated in our financial statements. For segment reporting we have included our pro-rated share of the earnings and losses from its investment under the Personal Injury Claims segment.
- (3) Corporate is not part of our three reportable segments, as certain expenses and assets are not earmarked to any specific operating segment

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#### Consumer Receivables

The consumer receivable portfolios generally consist of one or more of the following types of consumer receivables:

• *charged-off receivables* — accounts that have been written-off by the originators and may have been previously serviced by collection agencies; and

*semi-performing receivables* — accounts where the debtor is making partial or irregular monthly payments, but the accounts may have been written-off by the originators.

We acquire these consumer receivable portfolios at a significant discount to the amount actually owed by the borrowers. We acquire these portfolios after a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the underlying receivables and calculate the purchase price so that our estimated cash flow offers us an adequate return on our investment after servicing expenses. After purchasing a portfolio, we actively monitor its performance and review and adjust our collection and servicing strategies accordingly.

We purchase receivables from credit grantors and others through privately negotiated direct sales, brokered transactions and auctions in which sellers of receivables seek bids from several pre-qualified debt purchasers. We pursue new acquisitions of consumer receivable portfolios on an ongoing basis through:

our relationships with industry participants, financial institutions, collection agencies, investors and our financing sources;

brokers who specialize in the sale of consumer receivable portfolios; and

other sources.

## Litigation Funding

On December 28, 2011, we entered into a joint venture, Pegasus Funding, LLC ("Pegasus"), with Pegasus Legal Funding, LLC ("PLF"). We had an 80% non-controlling interest in the joint venture from the date of formation through January 12, 2018. During this time period we had operational disagreements with PLF, resulting in the amendment of the Pegasus operating agreement, the execution of a liquidation agreement and finally our filing of an arbitration

against PLF.

On January 12, 2018, we, ASFI and Fund Pegasus entered into a Settlement Agreement and Release (the "Settlement Agreement") by and among the parties, ASFI, Fund Pegasus, Pegasus, the Seller, Max Alperovich, Alexander Khanas, Larry Stoddard, III, Louis Piccolo and A.L. Piccolo & Co., Inc., a New York corporation. The Settlement Agreement releases certain claims in exchange for, among other things, the parties' entry into the Purchase Agreement (defined below).

On January 12, 2018, ASFI entered into a Membership Interest Purchase Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement) with PLF. Under the Purchase Agreement, ASFI bought PLF's ownership interests of Pegasus, which was 20% of the issued and outstanding limited liability company interests of Pegasus, for an aggregate purchase price of \$1.8 million. As a result of the execution of the Purchase Agreement, ASFI became the owner of 100% of the limited liability company interests of Pegasus, and recognized a loss on acquisition of \$1.4 million, which is recorded in our condensed consolidated financial statements. Immediately on acquisition, we changed the name from Pegasus to Sylvave.

As of January 12, 2018, we owned 100% of Pegasus, and commencing in the quarter ending March 31, 2018, the financial activity of Pegasus was consolidated into our financial statements. As of January 12, 2018, we were entitled to 100% of all distributions made from Pegasus.

On November 11, 2016, we formed Simia, a wholly owned subsidiary. Simia commenced funding personal injury settlement claims in January 2017. Simia was formed in response to our decision not to renew our joint venture with PLF. As of December 31, 2018, Sylvave's net investment in personal injury claim advances were approximately \$6.6 million, and Simia's personal injury claim advances were approximately \$2.2 million.

The Company formed a new wholly owned subsidiary, Practical Funding, on March 16, 2018 to continue in the personal injury claims funding business. To date, Practical Funding has not funded any advances on personal injury claims.

## Disability Advocacy Business

GAR Disability Advocates and Five Star are disability advocacy groups, which for a fee obtain and represent individuals in their claims for social security disability, supplemental security income benefits from the Social Security Administration and veterans benefits with the Veteran's Administration.

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## **Critical Accounting Policies**

#### Income Recognition - Consumer Receivables

We account for certain of our investments in consumer receivables using the guidance of Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC"), Receivables - Loans and Debt Securities Acquired with Deteriorated Credit Quality ("ASC 310"). Under the guidance of ASC 310, static pools of accounts are established. These pools are aggregated based on certain common risk criteria. Each static pool is recorded at cost and is accounted for as a single unit for the recognition of income, principal payments and loss provision. Due to the substantial reduction of portfolios reported under the interest method, and the inability to reasonably estimate cash collections required to account for those portfolios under the interest method, we concluded the cost recovery method is the appropriate accounting method under the circumstances.

Under the guidance of ASC 310-30, we must analyze a portfolio upon acquisition to ensure which method is appropriate, and once a static pool is established for a quarter, individual receivable accounts are not added to the pool (unless replaced by the seller) or removed from the pool (unless sold or returned to the seller).

We use the cost recovery method when collections on a particular pool of accounts cannot be reasonably predicted. Under the cost recovery method, no income is recognized until the cost of the portfolio has been fully recovered. A pool can become fully amortized (zero carrying balance on the balance sheet) while still generating cash collections. In this case, all cash collections are recognized as revenue when received.

# Impairments - Consumer Receivables

We account for our impairments in accordance with ASC 310, which provides guidance on how to account for differences between contractual and expected cash flows from an investor's initial investment in loans or debt securities acquired in a transfer if those differences are attributable, at least in part, to credit quality. The recognition of income under ASC 310 is dependent on us having the ability to develop reasonable expectations of both the timing and amount of cash flows to be collected. In the event we cannot develop a reasonable expectation as to both the timing and amount of cash flows expected to be collected. ASC 310 permits the change to the cost recovery method. We will recognize income only after we have recovered our carrying value.

If collection projections indicate the carrying value will not be recovered, an impairment is required. The impairment will be equal to the difference between the carrying value at the time of the forecast and the corresponding estimated

remaining future collections. We believe we have significant experience in acquiring certain distressed consumer receivable portfolios at a significant discount to the amount actually owed by underlying customers. We invest in these portfolios only after both qualitative and quantitative analyses of the underlying receivables are performed and a calculated purchase price is paid so that it believes its estimated cash flow offers an adequate return on acquisition costs after servicing expenses. Additionally, when considering larger portfolio purchases of accounts, or portfolios from issuers with whom we have limited experience, it has the added benefit of soliciting its third party collection agencies and attorneys for their input on liquidation rates and, at times, incorporates such input into the estimates it uses for its expected cash flows, and our ability to recover our cost basis. For the three months ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, we did not record any impairments on our domestic or international portfolios.

#### Personal Injury Claim Advances and Impairments

We account for our investments in personal injury claims at an agreed upon interest rate, in anticipation of a future settlement. Our interest purchased in personal injury claim advances consists of the right to receive from a claimant part of the proceeds or recoveries which such claimant receives by reason of a settlement, judgment or reward with respect to such claimant's claim. Open case revenue is estimated, recognized and accrued at a rate based on the expected realization and underwriting guidelines and facts and circumstances for each individual case. These personal injury claims are non-recourse. When a case is closed and the cash is received for the advance provided to a claimant, revenue is recognized based upon the contractually agreed upon interest rate, and, if applicable, adjusted for any changes due to a settled amount and fees charged to the claimant.

We assess the quality of the personal injury claims portfolio through an analysis of the underlying personal injury fundings on a case by case basis. Cases are reviewed through periodic updates with attorneys handling the cases, as well as with third party research tools which monitor public filings, such as motions or judgments rendered on specific cases. We specifically reserve for those fundings where the underlying cases are identified as uncollectible, due to anticipated non-favorable verdicts and/or settlements at levels where recovery of the advance outstanding is unlikely. For cases that have not exhibited any specific negative collection indicators, we establish reserves based on the historical collection rates of our fundings. Fee income on advances is reserved for on all cases where a specific reserve is established on the initially funded amount. In addition, we also monitor our historical collection rates on fee income and establish reserves on fee income consistent with the historically experienced collection rates. We regularly analyze and update the historical collection rates of our initially funded cases as well as our fee income.

# Income Recognition - Social Security Disability Advocacy

Effective October 1, 2018, we adopted ASC 606 - "Revenue from Contracts with Customer," which is effective for annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2017. ASC 606 introduced a five step approach to revenue recognition. Details of the new requirements as well as the impact on our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements are described below.

We applied ASC 606 in accordance with the modified retrospective transitional approach recognizing the cumulative effect of initially applying the revenue standard as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings during this period (October 1, 2018). Comparative prior year periods were not adjusted. In applying the modified retrospective approach, we elected practical expedients for (a) completed contracts as described in ASC 606-10-65-1-c(2), and (b) contract modifications as described in ASC 606-10-65-1-f(4), allowing (a) the application of the revenue standard only to contracts that were not completed as of the date of initial application, and (b) to reflect the aggregate effect of all modifications that occur before the adoption date in accordance with the new standard when: (i) identifying the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligations, (ii) determining the transaction price, and (iii) allocating the transaction price to the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligations. We believe that the impact on the opening balance of retained earnings during the period (October 1, 2018) would not have been significantly different had we not elected to use the practical expedients.

We recognize disability fee income for GAR Disability Advocates and Five Star when disability claimant's cases close, when cash is received, or when we receive a notice of award from the Social Security Administration ("SSA") that stipulates the amount of fee approved by the SSA to be paid to us. We establish a reserve for the differentials in amounts awarded by the SSA and Veterans Administration compared to the actual amounts received by us. Fees paid to us are withheld by the SSA and Veterans Administration against the claimant's disability claim award, and are remitted directly to us from the SSA and Veterans Administration.

In the following discussions, most percentages and dollar amounts have been rounded to aid in the presentation. As a result, all figures are approximations.

#### **Results of Operations**

Three Months Ended December 31, 2018, Compared to the Three Months Ended December 31, 2017

Finance income. For the three months ended December 31, 2018, finance income decreased \$0.7 million, or 16.5%, to \$3.5 million from \$4.2 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017. The decrease in finance income is due to reduction in the collections on portfolios during the three months ended December 31, 2018 compared to the three months ended December 31, 2017 and the overall age of the portfolios. During the three months ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company did not purchase any consumer portfolios. Net collections for the three months ended December 31, 2018 decreased 18.6% to \$4.0 million from \$4.9 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017. For the three months ended December 31, 2018 gross collections decreased 8.6%, or \$0.8 million, to \$8.2 million from \$9.0 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017. For the three months ended December 31, 2018 commissions and fees associated with gross collections from our third party collection agencies and attorneys increased 3.7% or \$0.2 million to \$4.2 million from \$4.0 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017. Commissions and fees amounted to 51% of gross collections for the three months ended December 31, 2018, compared to 45.0% for the three months ended December 31, 2017 resulting from higher percentage of commissionable collections in the current year period.

Social security benefit advocacy fee income. Disability fee income increased \$0.4 million, or 38.4%, to \$1.3 million for the three months ended December 31, 2018 from \$0.9 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017, due to an increase in disability claimants cases closed with the Social Security and Veterans Administration during the current year.

Earnings (loss) from equity method investee. Earnings from equity method investment decreased by \$0.4 million to a loss of \$30,000 for the three months ended December 31, 2018 from income of \$0.4 million during the three months ended December 31, 2017 due to the acquisition of the remaining 20% interest in Pegasus and Sylvave now being consolidated in our financial statements.

*Other income, net.* The following table summarizes other income for the three months ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

|                              | December 31, |          |  |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------|--|
|                              | 2018         | 2017     |  |
| Interest and dividend income | \$199,000    | \$31,000 |  |
| Realized gain                | 25,000       |          |  |
| Unrealized loss              | (29,000)     |          |  |
| Other                        | 39,000       | 3,000    |  |
|                              | \$234,000    | \$34,000 |  |

During the three months ended December 31, 2018, interest income was primarily earned on the Company's note receivable from its sale of CBC, settlement interest and dividend income from available for sale investments.

General and administrative expenses. For the three months ended December 31, 2018, general and administrative expense decreased \$0.3 million, or 6.8%, to \$3.9 million from \$4.2 million for the three months ended December 31,

, primarily due to a decrease in bad debt expense of \$0.5 million and office salaries of \$0.2 million, offset by an increase in professional fees of \$0.4 million.

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Segment profit – Consumer Receivables. Segment profit decreased \$0.8 million to \$2.9 million for the three months ended December 31, 2018 from \$3.7 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017. This decrease in profitability is a result of decreased revenue of \$0.7 million and a foreign exchange loss of \$0.2 million, offset by an increase in other income of \$0.1 million related to interest earned on the Unifund settlement receivable.

Segment loss – Personal Injury Claims. Segment profit increased \$0.6 million to \$0.5 million for the three months ended December 31, 2018, from a loss of \$0.1 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017. This increase in profitability is a result of increased revenue of \$0.2 million, and a decrease in various operating expenses of \$0.5 million.

Segment loss – GAR Disability Advocates . The Segment profit was \$0.4 million for the three months ended December 31, 2018 as compared to an \$18,000 segment loss for the three months ended December 31, 2017. The increase in profitability of \$0.4 million in the current fiscal year is primarily the result of increased revenue of \$0.4 million of which \$0.1 million was the result of our adoption of ASC 606.

*Discontinued Operations* – The Company had no income or loss from discontinued operations during the three months ended December 31, 2018 as a result of the sale of CBC on December 13, 2017. Loss from discontinued operations was \$0.1 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017.

Structured settlement income of \$2.2 million includes \$0.2 million of unrealized losses and \$2.0 million of interest income for the three months ended December 31, 2017. Unrealized gains on structured settlements is comprised of both unrealized gains resulting from fair market valuation at the date of acquisition of the structured settlements. Of the \$0.2 million of unrealized gains recognized for the three months ended December 31, 2017, approximately \$0.2 million is due to day one gains on new structured settlements financed during the period.

*Income tax (bednefit) expense*. Income tax expense, consisting of federal and state components, for three months ended December 31, 2018, was \$0.5 million, a decrease of \$3.5 million as compared to the three months ended December 31, 2017. In response to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed in December 2017, we remeasured our U.S. federal and state deferred tax assets and liabilities, which resulted in a decrease in our net deferred tax assets by approximately \$3.5 million. This adjustment was recorded as a one-time charge to income taxes for the three months ended December 31, 2017. For the three months ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, we recorded \$0.5 million and \$0.5 million of income tax expense after removing the December 31, 2017 one time charge of \$3.5 million.

*Net income* (*loss*). As a result of the above, we generated net income for the three months ended December 31, 2018 of \$1.3 million, compared to a net loss of \$2.7 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our primary source of cash from operations is collections on the receivable portfolios we have acquired and the funds generated from the liquidation of our personal injury claim portfolios. Our primary uses of cash include costs involved in the collection of consumer receivables, the liquidation of our personal injury portfolio, and the costs to run our disability advocacy business.

#### Receivables Financing Agreement

In March 2007, Palisades XVI borrowed approximately \$227 million under the Receivables Financing Agreement, as amended in July 2007, December 2007, May 2008, February 2009, October 2010 and August 2013 (the "RFA") from BMO, in order to finance the Portfolio Purchase which had a purchase price of \$300 million. The original term of the agreement was three years. This term was extended by each of the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Amendments and the most recent agreement signed in August 2013.

Financing Agreement . August 7, 2013, Palisades XVI, a 100% owned bankruptcy remote subsidiary, entered into a Settlement Agreement (the "BMO Settlement Agreement") with BMO as an amendment to the RFA. In consideration for a \$15 million prepayment funded by the Company, BMO has agreed to significantly reduce minimum monthly collection requirements and the interest rate. If and when BMO were to receive the next \$15 million of collections from the Portfolio Purchase, (the "Remaining Amount") less certain credits for payments made prior to the consummation of the BMO Settlement Agreement, Palisades XVI would be entitled to recover from future net collections the \$15 million prepayment that it funded. Thereafter, BMO would have the right to receive 30% of future net collections. Upon repayment of the Remaining Amount to BMO, Palisades XVI would be released from the remaining contractual obligation of the RFA.

On June 3, 2014, Palisades XVI finished paying the Remaining Amount. The final principal payment of \$2.9 million included a voluntary prepayment of \$1.9 million provided from funds of the Company. Accordingly, Palisades XVI was entitled to receive \$16.9 million of future collections from the Portfolio Purchase before BMO is entitled to receive any payments with respect to its Income Interest. During the month of June 2016, we received the balance of the \$16.9 million, and, as of December 31, 2018, we recorded a liability to BMO of approximately \$0.1 million. The funds were subsequently remitted to BMO on January 10, 2019. The liability to BMO is recorded when actual collections are received.

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# <u>Discontinued Operations -Structured Settlements</u>

On December 13, 2017, we entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (the "Securities Purchase Agreement) with CBC Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Buyer"). Under the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Company sold all of the issued and outstanding equity capital of CBC, our wholly owned subsidiary engaging in structured settlements, for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$10.3 million. Of the aggregate purchase price, approximately \$4.5 million was paid in cash, and \$5.8 million was paid under a promissory note at an annual interest rate of 7% to be paid quarterly to us and secured by a first priority security interest in and lien on such Buyer's affiliates' rights to certain servicing fees. The remaining amount of the aggregate purchase price was paid as reimbursement of certain invoices of CBC. As of December 31, 2018, there is approximately \$3.8 million outstanding on the promissory note.

#### Cash Flow

At December 31, 2018, our cash decreased \$0.1 million to \$6.2 million from \$6.3 million at September 30, 2018. Our cash balance remained consistent, due to the fact we invested all excess cash in US Treasury bills, which are accounted for as available for sale debt securities on our consolidated balance sheet.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$1.9 million during the three months ended December 31, 2018, as compared to \$0.9 million for the three months ended December 31, 2017, primarily resulting from the net income of \$1.3 million in the current period compared to a net loss of \$2.7 million in the prior year period. Net cash used in investing activities was \$2.2 million during the three month period ended December 31, 2018, as compared to \$3.5 million provided by investing activities during the three month period ended December 31, 2017. The change in cash used in investing activities is primarily due to the net purchase of available for sale debt securities and investments in equity securities of \$5.3 million in the current period compared to proceeds from the sale of CBC of \$4.5 million received in the prior period, partially offset by investing activities of the discontinued operations of \$1.5 million in the prior period. There was no cash provided by financing activities during the three months ended December 31, 2018, as compared to \$1.4 million provided by financing activities in the same prior year period. The change reflects the lesser amount of cash provided by discontinued operations.

Our cash requirements have been and will continue to be significant to operate our various lines of business. Significant requirements include costs involved in the collections of consumer receivables, investment in consumer receivable portfolios and investment in personal injury claims. In addition, dividends could be declared and paid if and when approved by the Board of Directors. Acquisitions recently have been financed through cash flows from operating activities. We believe we will not be dependent on a credit facility in the short-term, as our cash balances will be sufficient to invest in personal injury claims, purchase portfolios and finance the disability advocacy business.

We believe our available cash resources and expected cash flows from operations will be sufficient to fund operations for at least the next twelve months. We do not expect to incur any material capital expenditures during the next twelve months.

We are cognizant of the current market fundamentals in the debt purchase and company acquisition markets which, because of significant supply and tight capital availability, could result in increased buying opportunities. The outcome of any future transaction(s) is subject to market conditions. In addition, due to these opportunities, we may seek opportunities with banking organizations and others on a possible financing loan facility.

# **Off Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We do not have any off balance sheet arrangements.

### **Additional Supplementary Information:**

We do not anticipate collecting the majority of the purchased principal amounts of our various portfolios. Accordingly, the difference between the carrying value of the portfolios and the gross receivables is not indicative of future revenues from these accounts acquired for liquidation. Since we purchased these accounts at significant discounts, we anticipate collecting only a portion of the face amounts.

For additional information regarding our methods of accounting for our investment in finance receivables, the qualitative and quantitative factors we use to determine estimated cash flows, and our performance expectations of our portfolios, see "Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies" above.

### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

#### **Adopted During The Three Months Ended December 31, 2018**

On October 1, 2018, we adopted FASB update ASC 606, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers," that requires use of a single principles-based model for recognition of revenue from contracts with customers. The core principle of the model is to recognize revenue upon transfer of promised goods or services to customers, in an amount that reflects the entitled consideration received in exchange for those goods or services. The guidance also requires additional disclosure about the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from the customer contracts. We adopted the new guidance using the modified retrospective approach which did not require the restatement of prior periods, and recognized a cumulative effect adjustment resulting in an increase in total assets and retained earnings of \$173,000, net of taxes of \$80,000.

The most significant impact of ASC 606 relates to our accounting for revenue associated with disability claimant's contracts. Previously we recognized disability fee income when the disability claimants cases closed with the social security administration and the applicable fees were collected. Under the new guidance we determined that the various advocacy services, performed on behalf of a claimant, constitute one performance obligation as they represent an integrated set of services designed to provide a claimant with a successful award. It was also determined that the benefit of these services is conveyed to the claimant at the point in time that the award is determined to be successful. In addition we have made estimates of variable consideration under the expected value method. Therefore, for these arrangements, we will recognize revenue when each case is closed, when cash is received or when we receive a notice of award, stipulating our fees earned on each case directly from the social security administration or Veterans Administration.

The primary impact of adopting the new standard results in acceleration of revenues for the aforementioned contractual arrangements, which relate to the social security disability advocacy segment. Disability fee income represents approximately 23.1% of total consolidated revenues for the three months ended December 31, 2018.

The following line items in our consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive income for the current reporting period and condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2018 have been provided to reflect both the adoption of ASC 606 as well as a comparative presentation in accordance with ASC 605 previously in effect:

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss)** 

As Reported **Balances** Without

Impact of

Adoption

|   | (in<br>accordance<br>with ASC<br>606) | Adoption of ASC | Higher/(Lower) |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|   |                                       | 606             |                |
| Disability fee income                               | \$1,261,000                           | \$1,138,000     | \$ 123,000     |
| Income from continuing operations before income tax | \$1,746,000                           | \$1,623,000     | \$ 123,000     |

|   | As of December 31, 2018 |                             |                |  |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet</b> | As<br>Reported          | Balances Without Impact of  |                |  |
|   | (in accordance          | Adoption of Adoption<br>ASC |                |  |
|   | with ASC 606)           | 606                         | Higher/(Lower) |  |
| Asset<br>Accounts receivable                | \$376,000               | \$                          | \$ 376,000     |  |
| Stockholders' equity<br>Retained earnings   | \$83,879,000            | \$83,626,000-               | \$ 253,000 (1) |  |

### (1) Does not include the tax impact of \$80,000

On October 1, 2018, we adopted FASB Update No. 2016-01, Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities, to address certain aspects of recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of financial instruments. The main provision of this guidance requires certain equity investments to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net earnings; separate presentation in other comprehensive income for changes in fair value of financial liabilities measured under the fair value option that are due to instrument-specific credit risk; and changes in disclosures associated with the fair value of financial instruments. Upon adoption of this ASU, our investments in equity securities are no longer classified as available for sale, and changes in fair value are reflected in other income, net on our condensed consolidated statement of operations. In conjunction with this adoption we recorded a cumulative effect adjustment with a decrease to opening retained earnings of \$10,000 and an increase to opening accumulated other comprehensive income of \$10,000, net of tax benefit of \$5,000.

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In August 2016 the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-15, "Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments." This ASU made eight targeted changes to how cash receipts and cash payments are presented and classified in the statement of cash flows. The new standard was effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. Early adoption was permitted. The new standard required adoption on a retrospective basis unless it was impracticable to apply, in which case the Company would have been required to apply the amendments prospectively as of the earliest date practicable. Our adoption of the ASU did not have a material effect on the Company's consolidated statements of cash flows.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-01, "Business Combinations (Topic 805): Clarifying the Definition of a Business." The new rules provide for the application of a screen test to consider whether substantially all the fair value of the assets acquired is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or group of similar identifiable assets. If the screen test determines this to be true, the set is not a business. The new standard was effective for the Company in the first quarter of 2019. The adoption of the new accounting rules did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In March 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-09, Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718) Improvements to Employee Share Based Payment Accounting, to simplify and improve areas of generally accepted accounting principles for which cost and complexity can be reduced while maintaining or improving the usefulness of the information provided to users of financial statements. The effective date for this update is for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within that reporting period. The adoption of this update did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

#### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted**

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842) which requires lessees to recognize right-of-use assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet for all leases with terms longer than 12 months. For a lease with a term of 12 months or less, a lessee is permitted to make an accounting policy election by class of underlying asset not to recognize a right-of-use asset and lease liability. Additionally, when measuring assets and liabilities arising from a lease, optional payments should be included only if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise an option to extend the lease, exercise a purchase option or not exercise an option to terminate the lease. In January 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-01, Leases (Topic 842): Land Easement Practical Expedient for Transition to ASC 842. ASU No. 2018-01 was issued to address concerns about the cost and complexity of complying with the transition provisions of ASU No. 2018-01. Additionally, in July 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-11, "Leases (Topic 842): Targeted Improvements," which provides an alternative transition method that permits an entity to use the effective date of ASU No. 2016-02 as the date of initial application through the recognition of a cumulative effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings upon adoption. The standard becomes effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019 and interim periods within those years, and early adoption is permitted. We are is in the process of reviewing our existing leases, including service contracts for embedded leases to evaluate the impact of this standard on our consolidated financial statements and the impact on regulatory capital.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-13, Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments. The ASU requires an organization to measure all expected credit losses for financial assets held at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts. Additionally, the ASU amends the accounting for credit losses on available-for-sale debt securities and purchased financial assets with credit deterioration. This update will be effective for interim periods and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Upon adoption, we expect that we will accelerate the recording of our credit losses in our financial statements.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-04 Intangibles – Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment. The objective of this update is to simplify the subsequent measurement of goodwill, by eliminating step 2 from the goodwill impairment test. The amendments in this update are effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2019, and interim periods within those fiscal years. We do not believe this update will have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In February 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-02, Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, which allows a reclassification from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) to retained earnings for stranded tax effects resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted on December 22, 2017, and requires certain disclosures about stranded tax effects. ASU No. 2018-02 will be effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019, with early adoption permitted, and should be applied either in the period of adoption or retrospectively to each period (or periods) in which the effect of the change in the U.S. federal corporate income tax rate in the Act is recognized. The adoption of this ASU is not expected to have a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-13, Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework – Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement. This ASU modifies the disclosure requirements on fair value measurements. The ASU removes the requirement to disclose: the amount of and reasons for transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy; the policy for timing of transfers between levels; and the valuation processes for Level 3 fair value measurements. The ASU requires disclosure of changes in unrealized gains and losses for the period included in other comprehensive income (loss) for recurring Level 3 fair value measurements held at the end of the reporting period and the range and weighted average of significant unobservable inputs used to develop Level 3 fair value measurements. This ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019. We are currently evaluating the impact this guidance will have on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

#### **Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

#### a. Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

Our management, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2018. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of December 31, 2018 due to the existence of the material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting described below (which we view as an integral part of our disclosure controls and procedures).

1. The Company did not maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting disclosures specifically associated with concentrations, foreign transactions, significant entities and related party transactions. The material weaknesses related to financial reporting disclosures associated with significant and related party transactions at the subsidiary level, were first reported by the Company in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017, which was filed with the SEC on August 9, 2017, and was also identified as a material weakness in connection with the preparation of this report .

#### Planned Ongoing/Remedial Actions:

The Company is in the process of developing policies, procedures, and controls for the specific areas identified in this material weakness. The Company will also hire additional accounting and finance personnel with significant accounting and SEC reporting experience to join its finance team to ensure consistent application of these accounting principles and adherence to the Company's newly adopted policies, procedures, and controls. The Company is reviewing the current financial controls to assess if additional management review controls are necessary and have begun working with all finance personnel to establish the appropriate documentation criteria for the existing controls including evidence of review, timeliness and variance thresholds.

The Company plans to have the Disclosure Committee, which now meets on a quarterly basis, meet more frequently throughout the year to assure that our SEC filings and other public disclosures are complete,

accurate, and otherwise comply with applicable accounting principles and regulations. The Company's Disclosure Committee reports to our Chief Executive Officer with oversight provided by our Audit Committee, and includes individuals knowledgeable about, among other things, SEC rules and regulations, financial reporting, and internal control matters. The Company will also document a formal disclosure policy and procedures to govern the work of the Disclosure Committee.

Since the original determination regarding the material weakness associated with significant and related party transactions at the subsidiary level, the Company has installed contract management software to manage all of its contracts and associated obligations under those contracts. Management from each department has been trained on the software, and all contracts now require approvals of designated managers and the accounting department prior to execution. All contracts are reviewed by accounting personnel with requisite experience in identifying complex accounting transactional and disclosure issues.

2. The Company lacks a formal policy to assess the adequacy of the design and operating effectiveness of controls related to certain of the Company's subsidiaries, third party service providers and third party advocates, which was first reported by the Company in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017, which was filed with the SEC on August 9, 2017, and was also identified as a material weakness in connection with the preparation of this report.

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Planned Ongoing/Remedial Actions:

The Company has increased the frequency of onsite inspections of third party servicers over the last three months, utilizing existing accounting/finance personnel familiar with the specific accounting processes involved at each location. The Company has provided training to accounting personnel at subsidiary locations, and is developing detailed checklist and processes that can be used, and reviewed by management during period ends. Additionally, management will routinely visit subsidiary locations to ensure that the processes and guidelines developed are being strictly adhered to.

3. The Company did not maintain effective internal controls over accounting for complex transactions specifically associated with equity method investment, which was first reported by the Company in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017, which was filed with the SEC on August 9, 2017, and were also identified as a material weakness in connection with the preparation of this report .

Planned Ongoing/Remedial Actions:

The Company has developed policies, procedures, and controls to ensure the proper accounting for complex technical issues are identified, researched and brought to management's attention. The Company is in the process of training the appropriate personnel on new and existing accounting pronouncements, Company policies, procedures, and controls.

4. The Company did not maintain effective internal controls over accounting for foreign transactions specifically associated with accounting for transaction and translation adjustments, unallocated payments and cutoff, which were first reported by the Company in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017, which was filed with the SEC on August 9, 2017, and was also identified as a material weakness in connection with the preparation of this report.

Planned Ongoing/Remedial Actions:

The Company has developed and plans to implement improved policies, procedures, processes and controls, as well as conduct trainings to ensure the proper accounting for foreign currency matters in accordance with ASC 830, *Foreign Currency Matters*.

The Company plans to utilize an accounting system to ensure that all transactions are systematically re-measured and translated at the applicable foreign currency exchange rate and the associated gain or loss is appropriately recognized

in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income ("AOCI") or earnings.

The Company is currently reconciling the AOCI account in a timely manner.

5. The Company's social security disability advocacy segments controls lack the ability to ensure, in a timely manner, that they are legally entitled to the monies received; whether they have third-party documentation supporting the cash receipts; or whether a specific advocacy case is ongoing or closed. The aggregation of the impact of these deficiencies rises to the level of a material weakness, being first identified as a material weakness in connection with the preparation of this report.

Planned Ongoing/Remedial Actions:

The Company plans to implement changes to the software that manages the social security disability business, to reconcile the amounts received by the Social Security Administration ("SSA") to SSA's notice of award. Additionally, applicable personnel will be trained on the new software modifications to ensure compliance in the input and maintenance of claimant's files.

The Company plans to appropriately reconcile the amounts received from the SSA to the notice of awards, in a timely manner.

### b. Changes in Internal Controls over Financial Reporting.

Our management, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated our internal control over financial reporting to determine whether any changes occurring during the first quarter of fiscal year 2019 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to affect, our internal control over financial reporting. Management has concluded that there have been no other changes, other than those discussed above, that occurred during such quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

#### PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

#### Item 1. Legal Proceedings

In the ordinary course of our business, we are involved in numerous legal proceedings. We regularly initiate collection lawsuits, using third party law firms, against consumers. Also, consumers occasionally initiate litigation against us, in which they allege that we have violated a federal or state law in the process of collecting on their account. We do not believe that these ordinary course matters are material to our business and financial condition. As of the date of this report, we were not involved in any material litigation in which we were a defendant.

Legal proceedings are subject to substantial uncertainties concerning the outcome of material factual and legal issues relating to the litigation. Accordingly, we cannot currently predict the manner and timing of the resolution of some of these matters and may be unable to estimate a range of possible losses or any minimum loss from such matters.

#### Item 1A. Risk factors

For a discussion of our potential risks and uncertainties, see the information previously disclosed in Part I, Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, for the year ended September 30, 2018 filed with the SEC on December 21, 2018. There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

# Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None

#### **Item 3. Default Upon Senior Securities**

None

#### **Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable

| Item 5. Other Information   |
|---|
| None  |
| Item 6. Exhibits  |
| (a) Exhibits.   |
| Membership Interest Purchase Agreement, dated December 31, 2013, by and among CBC Settlement Funding, 2.1#LLC, CBC Management Services Group, LLC, Asta Funding, Inc. and the other parties thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 7, 2014).         |
| Securities Purchase Agreement, dated December 13, 2017, by and between Asta Funding, Inc., and CBC 2.2 Holdings LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 19, 2017).   |
| Membership Interest Purchase Agreement, dated January 12, 2018, by and between ASFI Pegasus Holdings, LLC 2.3#and Pegasus Legal Funding, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 18, 2018).   |
| Term Sheet, dated November 8, 2016, by and among Asta Funding, Inc., ASFI Pegasus Holdings, LLC, Fund Pegasus, LLC, Pegasus Funding, LLC, Pegasus Legal Funding, LLC, Max Alperovich and Alexander Khanas (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 15, 2016). |
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- 3.1 Certificate of Incorporation of Asta Funding, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed August 9, 2016).
- 3.2 Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Asta Funding, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1(a) to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB filed May 15, 2002).
- 3.3 <u>Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Preferred Stock of Asta Funding, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 24, 2012).</u>
- 3.4 <u>Certificate of Elimination of the Series A Junior Preferred Stock of Asta Funding, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 5, 2017).</u>
- 3.5 <u>Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Asta Funding, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 5, 2017).</u>
- 3.6 Amended and Restated By-laws of Asta Funding, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed August 9, 2016).
- 3.7 Amendment to Amended and Restated By-laws of Asta Funding, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 9, 2017).
- 31.1\* Certification of Gary Stern, Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2\* Certification of Bruce R. Foster, Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1\*\* Certification of Gary Stern, Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
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- 101.INS XBRL Instance.
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.
- 101.CALXBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation.
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition.
- 101.LABXBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels.
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation.

<sup>\*</sup>Filed herewith.

This certification is deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as

<sup>\*\*</sup>amended ("Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended or the Exchange Act.

<sup>#</sup>Indicates schedules have been omitted pursuant to Item 6.01(b)(2) of Regulation S-K. Asta Funding Inc. agrees to furnish supplementally a copy of any omitted schedule or exhibit to the SEC upon request.

# **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

# ASTA FUNDING, INC.

(Registrant)

Date: February 14, 2019 By:/s/ Gary Stern

Gary Stern, President, Chief Executive Officer

(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: February 14, 2019 By:/s/ Bruce R. Foster

Bruce R. Foster, Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)

# **EXHIBIT INDEX**

| Exhibit |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| Number  | Description   |  |
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| 2.2     | Securities Purchase Agreement, dated December 13, 2017, by and between Asta Funding, Inc., and CBC Holdings LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 19, 2017).   |  |
| 2.3#    | Membership Interest Purchase Agreement, dated January 12, 2018, by and between ASFI Pegasus Holdings, LLC and Pegasus Legal Funding, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Asta Funding, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 18, 2018).   |  |
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- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels.
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation.

This certification is deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as

<sup>\*</sup>Filed herewith.

<sup>\*\*</sup>amended ("Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended or the Exchange Act.

Indicates schedules have been omitted pursuant to Item 6.01(b)(2) of Regulation S-K. Asta Funding Inc. agrees to furnish supplementally a copy of any omitted schedule or exhibit to the SEC upon request.