



## **Audit Committee Charter**

**(Amended as of February 21, 2017)**

### **Purposes, Authority & Funding**

The audit committee (the "Committee") of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of CombiMatrix Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), is appointed by the Board for the purpose of overseeing the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Company's financial statements. In so doing, the Committee shall endeavor to maintain free and open communication between the Company's directors, independent auditor and financial management.

The Committee shall have the authority to retain independent legal, accounting or other advisers as it determines necessary to carry out its duties and, if necessary, to institute special investigations. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company, or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditor, to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. Further, the Committee may request any such officer, employee, outside counsel or independent auditor to provide any pertinent information to the Committee or to any other person or entity designated by the Committee.

The Company shall provide the Committee with appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee in its capacity as a committee of the Board, for the payments of: (1) compensation to any registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company; (2) compensation to any independent advisers retained by the Committee in carrying out its duties; and (3) ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

### **Committee Membership**

The members of the Committee (the "Members") shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve at the discretion of the Board. The Committee shall consist of at least three (3) Members, each of which shall be a member of the Board. The following membership requirements shall also apply, subject to the exemptions provided by Rule 10A-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act") or exemptions applicable pursuant to other applicable laws or regulations:

- (i) each Member must be "independent" as defined under the Nasdaq Marketplace Rules;
- (ii) each Member must meet the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) promulgated under the Act;
- (iii) each Member must not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company or any current subsidiary of the Company at any time during the past three (3) years;
- (iv) each Member must be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including the Company's balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement; and
- (v) at least one (1) Member must have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or other comparable experience or background which results in such Member's financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities.

Notwithstanding subparagraph (i) above, one (1) director who: (a) is not independent as defined under the Nasdaq Marketplace Rules; (b) meets the criteria set forth in Section 10A(m)(3) under the Act and the rules promulgated thereunder; and (c) is not a current officer or employee of the Company or a Family Member (as defined under the Nasdaq Marketplace Rules) of such an officer or employee, may be appointed to the Committee if the Board, under exceptional and limited circumstances, determines that membership on the Committee by the individual is required by the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. A Member appointed under the exception set forth in the preceding sentence must not serve longer than two (2) years and must not serve as chairperson of the Committee.

If a current Member ceases to be independent under the requirements of subparagraphs (i) and (ii) above for reasons outside the Member's reasonable control, the affected Member may remain on the Committee until the earlier of the Company's next annual stockholders meeting or one year from the occurrence of the event that caused the failure to comply with those requirements. If the membership of the Committee fails to meet the requirements set forth in this "Committee Membership" section of this Charter due to one vacancy on the Committee, and the cure period set forth in the preceding sentence is not otherwise being relied upon for another Member, the Company will have until the earlier of its next annual stockholders meeting or one year from the occurrence of the event that caused the failure to comply with the requirements to rectify such non-compliance.

## **Authority & Responsibilities**

Subject to applicable Board and stockholder approvals, the Committee shall:

### *Financial Statement & Disclosure Matters*

1. Review the policies and procedures adopted by the Company to fulfill its responsibilities regarding the fair and accurate presentation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and Nasdaq;
2. Oversee the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes;
3. Oversee audits of the Company's financial statements;
4. Review with the Company's independent auditor, management and internal auditors any information regarding "second" opinions sought by management from an independent auditor with respect to the accounting treatment of a particular event or transaction;
5. Review and discuss reports from the Company's independent auditor regarding: (a) all critical accounting policies and practices to be used by the Company; (b) all alternative treatments of financial information within GAAP that have been discussed with management, including ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor; and (c) other material written communications between the independent auditor and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences;
6. Review all certifications provided by the Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer pursuant to Sections 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act;
7. Review and discuss with management the Company's audited financial statements and review with management and the Company's independent auditor the Company's financial statements (including disclosures made under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations") prior to the filing with the SEC of any report containing such financial statements;
8. If deemed appropriate, recommend to the Board that the Company's audited financial statements be included in its annual report on Form 10-K for the last fiscal year;

### *Matters Regarding Oversight of the Company's Independent Auditor*

9. Be directly responsible, in its capacity as a committee of the Board, for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of any registered public accounting firm engaged (including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company; provided also that each such registered public accounting firm shall report directly to the Committee;
10. Ensure independence of the Company's external auditor on an annual basis, consistent with PCAOB Rule 3520, as may be modified or supplemented, both through verbal inquiries as well as through receiving and reviewing a formal written statement and letter from the Company's independent auditor, delineating all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company;
11. Actively engage in a dialogue with the Company's independent auditor with respect to any disclosed relationship or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditor;
12. Take, or recommend that the Board take, appropriate action to oversee and ensure the independence of the

Company's independent auditor;

13. Establish clear policies regarding the hiring of employees and former employees of the Company's independent auditor;
14. Establish policies and procedures for review and pre-approval by the Committee of all audit services and permissible non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed by the Company's independent auditor, with exceptions provided for *de minimis* amounts under certain circumstances as permitted by law; provided, however, that: (a) the Committee may delegate to one (1) or more Members the authority to grant such pre-approvals if the pre-approval decisions of any such delegate Member(s) are presented to the Committee at its next-scheduled meeting; and (b) all approvals of non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditor must be disclosed in the Company's applicable periodic reports;
15. Ensure that the Company's independent auditor: (a) has received an external quality control review by an independent public accountant ("peer review") that determines whether the independent auditor's system of quality control is in place and operating effectively and whether established policies and procedures and applicable auditing standards are being followed; or (b) is enrolled in a peer review program and within 18 months receives a peer review that meets acceptable guidelines in accordance with Nasdaq requirements;
16. Meet with the Company's independent auditor prior to its audit to review the planning and staffing of the audit;
17. Discuss with the Company's independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as may be modified or supplemented, relating to the conduct of the audit;
18. Oversee the rotation of the lead (or coordinating) audit partner of the Company's independent auditor having primary responsibility for the audit and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit at least every five (5) years;

#### *Matters Regarding Oversight of the Company's Internal Audit Function*

19. Review the Company's annual audited financial statements with management, including a review of major issues regarding accounting and auditing principles and practices, and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls that could significantly affect the Company's financial statements, as well as the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and management's reports thereon;
20. Review major changes to the Company's auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by the Company's independent auditor, internal auditors or management;
21. Review the appointment of, and any replacement of, the Company's senior internal auditing executive;
22. Review the significant reports to management prepared by the Company's internal auditing department and management's responses;

#### *Matters Regarding Oversight of Compliance Responsibilities*

23. Advise the Board with respect to the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
24. Obtain reports from the Company's management, senior internal auditing executive and independent auditor that the Company's subsidiaries and foreign affiliated entities are in compliance with applicable legal requirements, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act;
25. Establish procedures for: (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;
26. Review all related party transactions for potential conflict of interest situations on an ongoing basis and approve all such transactions (if such transactions are not approved by another independent body of the Board);
27. Review and address any concerns regarding potentially illegal actions raised by the Company's independent auditor pursuant to Section 10A(b) of the Act, and cause the Company to inform the SEC of any report issued by the Company's independent auditor to the Board regarding such conduct pursuant to Rule 10A-1 under the Act;

28. Obtain from the Company's independent auditor assurance that it has complied with Section 10A of the Act;

#### *Additional Duties & Responsibilities*

29. Review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually;

30. Review with the Company's outside counsel and internal legal counsel any legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements, the Company's compliance policies and any material reports or inquiries received from regulators or governmental agencies;

31. Provide oversight and review of the Company's asset management policies, including an annual review of the Company's investment policies and performance for cash and short-term investments; and

32. Take any other actions that the Committee deems necessary or proper to fulfill the purposes and intent of this Charter.

While the Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Nothing contained in this Charter is intended to alter or impair the operation of the "business judgment rule" as interpreted by the courts under the Delaware General Corporation Law. Further, nothing contained in this Charter is intended to alter or impair the right of the Members to rely, in discharging their responsibilities, on the records of the Company and on other information presented to the Committee, Board or Company by its officers or employees or by outside experts and advisers such as the Company's independent auditor.

### **Structure & Meetings**

The chairperson of the Committee shall be designated by the Board or, in the absence of such a designation, by a majority of the Members. The designated chairperson shall preside at each meeting of the Committee and, in consultation with the other Members, shall set the frequency and length of each meeting and the agenda of items to be addressed at each meeting. In the absence of the designated chairperson at any meeting of the Committee, the Members present at such meeting shall designate a chairperson *pro tem* to serve in that capacity for the purposes of such meeting (not to include any adjournment thereof) by majority vote. The chairperson (other than a chairperson *pro tem*) shall ensure that the agenda for each meeting is distributed to each Member in advance of the applicable meeting.

The Committee shall meet as often as it determines to be necessary and appropriate, but not less than quarterly each year. The Committee may establish its own schedule, provided that it shall provide such schedule to the Board in advance. The chairperson of the Committee or a majority of the Members may call special meetings of the Committee upon notice as is required for special meetings of the Board in accordance with the Company's bylaws. A majority of the appointed Members, but not less than two (2) Members, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Members may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all Members participating in such meeting can hear one another, and such participation shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

The Committee may meet with any person or entity in executive session as desired by the Committee. The Committee shall meet with the Company's independent auditors, at such times as the Committee deems appropriate, to review the independent auditor's examination and management report.

Unless the Committee by resolution determines otherwise, any action required or permitted to be taken by the Committee may be taken without a meeting if all Members consent thereto in writing and the writing or writings are filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee. The Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees when appropriate.

### **Minutes**

The Committee shall maintain written minutes of its meetings, which minutes shall be filed with the minutes of the meetings of the Board.