### **BGI CREDITORS' LIQUIDATING TRUST AGREEMENT**

This BGI Creditors' Liquidating Trust Agreement (the "Agreement") dated as of December \_\_\_\_\_, 2011 by and between Borders Group, Inc.; Borders International Services, Inc.; Borders, Inc.; Borders Direct, LLC; Borders Properties, Inc.; Borders Online, LLC and BGP (UK) Limited (collectively, the "Settlor" or "Debtors"), and \_\_\_\_\_\_ (the "Trustee"), for the benefit of the Holders of Allowed General Unsecured Claims (the "Beneficiaries") under the terms of the Debtors' Joint Plan of Liquidation Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Plan") confirmed by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court") in Chapter 11 Case No. 11-10614 (MG) by Order dated December \_\_\_\_, 2011.

### WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Trust is created pursuant to, and to effectuate, the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Trust is created on behalf, and for the sole benefit, of the Beneficiaries made pursuant to the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Trust is established for the purpose of collecting, distributing and liquidating the Assets (as defined below) for the benefit of the Beneficiaries in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the Plan with no objective to continue or engage in the conduct of a trade or business, except to the extent reasonably necessary to, and consistent with, the liquidating purpose of the Trust;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Plan, the Settlor, the Trustee, and the Beneficiaries are required to treat, for all federal income tax purposes, the transfer of the Assets to the Trust as a transfer of the Assets by the Settlor to the Beneficiaries in satisfaction of their Allowed General Unsecured Claims, followed by a transfer of the Assets by the Beneficiaries to the Trust in exchange for the beneficial interest herein, and to treat the Beneficiaries as the grantors and owners of the Trust in accordance with Treasury Regulation § 301.7701-4;

WHEREAS, the Trust is intended to be treated as a grantor trust for federal income tax purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the mutual covenants contained herein and in the Plan, the Settlor and the Trustee agree as follows:

# **ARTICLE I**

## **DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

1.1 Definitions.

1.1.1 "Agreement" shall mean this BGI Creditors' Liquidating Trust Agreement.

1.1.2 "Assets" shall mean the Liquidating Trust Assets, Causes of Action transferred to the Trust, and any Retained Assets.

1.1.3 "Available Trust Cash" shall mean the aggregate of the Assets and Causes of Action and proceeds thereof after paying, reserving against, or satisfying: (1) fees incurred due to the U.S. Trustee pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1930(a)(6); (2) incurred operating and administrative expenses of the Trust, including but not limited to all costs, expenses, and obligations incurred by the Trustee (or professionals who may be employed by the Trustee in administering the Trust) in carrying out their other responsibilities under this Agreement, or in any manner connected, incidental, or related thereto and payment of such fees; and (3) the Disputed Claims Reserve. 1.1.4 "Beneficiaries" shall collectively mean the Holders of Allowed General Unsecured Claims under the Plan, or any successors to such Holders' Allowed General Unsecured Claims or interests in the Trust.

1.1.5 "Claim" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Plan.

1.1.6 "Effective Date" shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Plan.

1.1.7 "Settlor" shall mean the Debtors.

1.1.8 "Trust" shall mean the liquidating trust established pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and the Plan.

1.1.9 "Trustee" shall mean (x) initially, the person or corporation named herein, and (y) any successors or replacements duly appointed under the terms of this Agreement.

1.1.10 "Permitted Investments" shall include (a) short-term direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed by, the United States of America, (b) short-term obligations of any agency or corporation which is or may hereafter be created by or pursuant to an act of the Congress of the United States as an agency or instrumentality thereof, (c) such other investments as the Bankruptcy Court may approve from time to time, or (d) demand deposits or certificates of deposit at any bank or trust company that has, at the time of the deposit, a capital stock and surplus aggregating at least \$1,000,000,000, provided, however, that the scope of any Permitted Investments shall be limited to include only those investments that a liquidating trust, within the meaning of Treas. Reg. § 301.7701-4(d), may be permitted to hold, pursuant to Treasury Regulations, or any modification in the IRS guidelines, whether set forth in IRS rulings, other IRS pronouncements, or otherwise.

1.2 <u>Use of Plan Definitions</u>. All terms which are used in this Agreement but not defined herein shall have the same meaning set forth in the Plan.

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1.3 <u>Interpretation</u>. The headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not limit or otherwise affect the provisions of this Agreement. Words denoting the singular number shall include the plural number and vice versa, and words denoting one gender shall include the other gender.

1.4 <u>Particular Words</u>. Reference in this Agreement to any Section or Article is, unless otherwise specified, to that such Section or Article under this Agreement. The words "hereof," "herein," "herein," and similar terms shall refer to this Agreement and not to any particular Section or Article of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE II**

## **DECLARATION OF TRUST**

2.1 <u>Creation and Name</u>. There is hereby created the Trust, which shall be known as the "BGI Creditors' Liquidating Trust," and is the Trust referred to as the "Liquidating Trust" in the Plan. The Trustee may conduct the affairs of the Trust under the name of the "BGI Creditors' Liquidating Trust."

2.2 <u>Purpose of Trust</u>. The Settlor and the Trustee, pursuant to the Plan and in accordance with the "Bankruptcy Code, hereby create the Trust for the purpose of collecting, distributing, and liquidating the Assets for the benefit of the Beneficiaries in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the Plan. The activities of the Trust shall be limited to those activities set forth in this Agreement and as otherwise contemplated by the Plan.

2.3 Transfer of Assets.

A. The Settlor hereby grants, releases, assigns, conveys, transfers and delivers, on behalf of the Beneficiaries, all of the Settler's right, title and interest in the Assets to the Trustee as of the Effective Date in trust for the benefit of the Beneficiaries, pursuant to §§

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1123(a)(5)(B) and 1123(b)(3)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code and in accordance with the Plan and Confirmation Order, and as of the Effective Date free and clear of any and all liens, claims, encumbrances, and interests (legal, beneficial, or otherwise) of all other Persons to the maximum extent contemplated by and permissible under § 1141(c) of the Bankruptcy Code for the uses and purposes as specified in this Agreement and the Plan, but subject to the following liabilities: (i) all fees payable pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1930 until such time as the Bankruptcy Court enters a final decree closing each of the Debtor's Chapter 11 cases, (ii) any expenses incurred and unpaid, or to be incurred, by the Debtors, the Committee or the Trustee in the performance of their administrative duties in respect of winding up the Debtors' estates, and (iii) any obligations owing pursuant to the Plan.

B. The Trustee shall automatically, and without need for further notice or approval of the Bankruptcy Court or the Debtors, be designated as the representative of the Estates pursuant to § 1123(b)(3)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code to enforce or pursue any Cause of Action transferred to the Trust after the Effective Date in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, the Plan, and the Confirmation Order. Any proceeds of a Cause of Action shall be distributed pursuant to the terms of the Plan and this Agreement.

2.4 <u>Securities Law</u>. Under § 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code, the issuance of beneficial interests in the Trust to the Beneficiaries under the Plan shall be exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all applicable state and local laws requiring registration of securities. If the Trustee determines, with the advice of counsel, that the Trust is required to comply with the registration and reporting requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, then

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the Trustee shall take any and all actions to comply with such reporting requirements and file necessary periodic reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2.5 <u>Appointment and Acceptance of Trustee</u>. The Trustee shall be deemed to be appointed pursuant to § 1123(b)(3)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code. The Trustee accepts the Trust created by this Agreement and the grant, assignment, transfer, conveyance, and delivery to the Trustee, on behalf, and for the benefit, of the Beneficiaries, by the Debtors of all of their respective right, title, and interest in the Assets, upon and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, the Plan, and the Confirmation Order.

2.6 <u>No Reversion to Debtors</u>. In no event shall any part of the Assets be distributed to any of the Debtors.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST**

3.1 <u>Rights, Powers, and Privileges</u>. The Trustee shall have only the rights, powers, and privileges expressly provided in this Agreement and Plan. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, including Section 3.4 of this Agreement, the Trustee shall have the power to take the actions granted in this Section 3.1 and any powers reasonably incidental thereto, which the Trustee reasonably determines to be necessary or appropriate to fulfill the purpose of the Trust, including but not limited to:

A. Prosecuting, settling, assigning, or otherwise compromising or abandoning for the benefit of the Trust any and all Causes of Action transferred to the Trust or arising in favor of the Trust, including, without limitation, taking any action with respect to appeals, counterclaims, and defenses of or with respect to such claims and causes of action, including retaining counsel to pursue the Causes of Action;

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B. Exercising all powers provided to the Trustee or the Trust under the Plan or Confirmation Order, including, without limitation, the right to allow, object to, or reconcile Unsecured Claims, Priority Claims (both tax and non-tax), Administrative Claims and Secured Claims and any other Claims asserted against the Debtors' Estates;

C. Liquidating, selling or abandoning the Assets or any portion thereof;

D. Executing any documents and taking any other actions related to, or in connection with, the liquidation of the Assets and the exercise of the Trustee's powers granted in this Agreement, the Plan, and Confirmation Order;

E. Holding legal title to any and all rights of the Beneficiaries in, to, or arising from the Assets;

F. Establishing a reserve for disputed claims (the "Disputed Claims Reserve"), as well as any other required reserves as may be necessary and appropriate for the proper operation of matters incident to the Trust;

G. Protecting and enforcing the rights to the Assets vested in the Trustee by this Agreement by any method reasonably determined to be appropriate, including, without limitation, by judicial proceedings or pursuant to any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, moratorium, or similar law and general principles of equity;

H. Making distributions of the Assets to or on behalf of the Beneficiaries in accordance with this Agreement, the Plan, and the Confirmation Order;

I. Filing any and all tax returns with respect to the Trust and pay taxes properly payable by the Trust, if any; provided, however, that for the avoidance of doubt,

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neither the Trust nor the Trustee shall have any authority or duty to file any tax returns for any Debtor;

J. Making all necessary filings in accordance with any applicable law, statute, or regulation;

K. Determining and satisfying from the Assets any and all taxes and ordinary course liabilities, including reasonable professional fees and expenses, incurred by or on behalf of the Trust;

L. Investing the Assets received by the Trust or Trustee or otherwise held by the Trust or Trustee in accordance with Section 3.5 of this Agreement;

M. In the event that the Trustee determines that the Beneficiaries or the Trust may, will or have become subject to different tax consequences than those described in this Agreement, taking such actions that will, or are intended to, address such different tax consequences;

N. Creating sub-trusts or title vehicles of which the Trust or the Beneficiaries hold the beneficial or ownership interests, as applicable;

O. Sending annually to each Beneficiary a separate statement stating the Beneficiary's share of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit and instructing all such Beneficiaries to report such items on their federal tax returns;

P. Opening and maintaining bank accounts on behalf of or in the name of the Trust;

Q. Purchasing customary insurance coverage in accordance with Section 4.8 of this Agreement;

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R. In reliance upon the official claims register maintained in the Bankruptcy Cases and any applicable court order, maintaining on the Trustee's books and records a register evidencing the beneficial interest in the Trust held by each Beneficiary;

S. Performing such functions and taking such actions as are provided for or permitted in this Agreement, the Plan, the Confirmation Order, or any other agreement executed pursuant to this Agreement, the Plan, or the Confirmation Order; and

T. Terminating this Trust and seeking to close the Debtors' Bankruptcy Cases pursuant to § 350(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

3.2 <u>Agents and Professionals</u>. The Trustee may, but shall not be required to, consult with and retain attorneys, financial advisors, accountants or other professionals and employees as the Trustee deems appropriate in the reasonable exercise of his or her discretion, and who the Trustee reasonably determines to have qualifications necessary to assist the Trustee in the proper administration of the Trust. Subject to Section 7.8 of this Agreement, the Trustee may pay the reasonable fees, costs and expenses of such persons (including himself) out of the Assets in the ordinary course of business pursuant to the Plan and Confirmation Order. Subject to this Section 3.2 and the other terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Plan and Confirmation Order, the Trustee may retain professionals who previously were employed by the Committee and/or Debtors.

3.3 <u>Safekeeping of Assets</u>. All Assets shall, until distributed or paid over as herein provided or in the Plan, be held in trust for the benefit of the Beneficiaries in accordance with the Plan and this Agreement. The Trustee shall be under no liability for interest or producing income on any moneys received by it herein and held for distribution or payment to the Beneficiaries, except as such interest or income shall actually be received by the Trustee.

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3.4 <u>Limitations on Trustee</u>. The Trustee shall not at any time, on behalf of the Trust or Beneficiaries, enter into or engage in any trade or business, and no part of the Assets or the proceeds, revenue, or income therefrom shall be used or disposed of by the Trust in furtherance of any trade or business.

3.5 <u>Investment</u>. The Trustee may only invest funds held in the Trust in Permitted Investments, in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code or any order of the Bankruptcy Court modifying such requirements and, provided that the Trustee does so, he or she shall have no liability in the event of insolvency of any institution in which he or she has invested any of the Assets or any proceeds, revenue, or income therefrom.

3.6 <u>Trustee Action</u>. The Trustee shall hold, collect, conserve, protect, and administer the Trust in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and the Plan, and pay and distribute amounts as set forth herein for the purposes set forth in this Agreement. Any good faith determination by the Trustee as to what actions are in the best interests of the Trust shall be determinative.

3.7 <u>Bankruptcy Court Approval of Trustee Actions</u>. Except as provided in the Plan or otherwise specified in this Agreement, the Trustee need not obtain an order or approval of the Bankruptcy Court in the exercise of any power, rights, or discretion conferred hereunder, or account to the Bankruptcy Court. The Trustee shall exercise its business judgment for the benefit of the Beneficiaries in order to maximize the value of the Assets and distributions, giving due regard to the cost, risk, and delay of any course of action. Notwithstanding the foregoing in this Section 3.7, but subject to Section 3.4 of this Agreement, the Trustee may submit to the Bankruptcy Court any question or questions regarding which the Trustee may desire to have explicit approval of the Bankruptcy Court for the taking of any specific action proposed to be taken by the Trustee with respect to the Assets, the Trust, the Agreement, the Plan, or the Debtors, including the administration and distribution of the Assets. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain jurisdiction for such purposes and shall approve or disapprove any such proposed action upon motion. In addition, subject to Section 3.4 of this Agreement, the Trustee shall have the authority, but not the obligation, to seek Bankruptcy Court approval to sell any Asset free and clear of any and all liens, claims, and encumbrances.

3.8 <u>Confidentiality.</u> The Trustee shall, during the period that it serves as Trustee under this Agreement and for a period of twelve (12) months following the termination of this Agreement or its removal or resignation hereunder, hold strictly confidential and not use for personal gain any material, non-public information of or pertaining to any entity to which any of the Assets relates or which it has become aware of in its capacity as Trustee.

## ARTICLE IV

## **DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE TRUST**

4.1 <u>Timing and Amount of Distributions</u>. Distributions of Available Trust Cash shall be made no less frequently than once per twelve-month period, such period to be measured from the Effective Date (each a "Distribution Date"); <u>provided, however</u>, that the Trustee may defer a distribution to the next Distribution Date if the Trustee determines, in the reasonable exercise of the Trustee's discretion, that the amount available for distribution at such time is insufficient to justify the cost of effecting the distribution; <u>provided further</u>, however, that the Trustee may, in the reasonable exercise of the Trustee's discretion, cause the Trust to retain an amount of Available Trust Cash reasonably necessary to maintain the value of the Assets or to meet Trust liabilities, including any reserve for Disputed Claims. 4.2 <u>Distributions</u>. Holders of Allowed General Unsecured Claims against the Debtors shall receive, in full and final satisfaction of their allowed General Unsecured Claims, a Pro Rata share of the Available Trust Cash after the Trustee maintains appropriate reserves for Disputed Claims and the costs of administration of the Trust. The Trustee shall require any Beneficiary to furnish to the Trustee in writing his or its Employer or Taxpayer Identification Number as assigned by the IRS, and the Trustee may condition any Distribution upon receipt of such identification number.

4.3 <u>Distributions After Allowance or Disallowance of a Disputed Claim</u>. Within thirty (30) days of a Disputed Claim becoming an Allowed General Unsecured Claim, the Trustee shall distribute to the Holder thereof, from the Disputed Claim Reserve, such amount of Available Trust Cash as would have been distributed to such Holder if its Claim had been an Allowed General Unsecured Claim on the Effective Date. The Trustee shall no longer reserve for and shall distribute to the Beneficiaries, pursuant to this Agreement, their Pro Rata share of the funds held in the Disputed Claim Reserve on account of any Disputed General Unsecured Claim that becomes disallowed.

4.4 <u>Undeliverable Property</u>. If any distribution of Available Trust Cash to or on behalf of a Beneficiary is returned to the Trustee or its agent as undeliverable, no further distribution to such Beneficiary shall be made unless and until the Trustee is notified in writing of such Beneficiary's then-current address. Any Beneficiary that does not assert a claim for an undeliverable distribution of Available Trust Cash within three (3) months after the last Distribution Date on which the relevant distribution became deliverable shall no longer have any claim to or interest in the Available Trust Cash represented by such undeliverable distribution, and in such cases, all title to and all beneficial interests in the Assets represented by any such undeliverable distributions shall revert to and/or remain in the Trust and shall be distributed in accordance with Article IV of this Agreement and the Plan.

4.5 <u>Payments Limited to Assets</u>. All payments to be made by the Trustee to or for the benefit of any Beneficiary shall be made only from the Assets or proceeds from Causes of Action.

4.6 <u>United States Trustee Fees and Reports</u>. After the Effective Date, the Trustee shall pay as an expense of the Trust all fees incurred under 28 U.S.C. § 1930(a)(6) by reason of the Trust's disbursements as required under the Plan and Confirmation Order until the Debtors' Bankruptcy Cases are closed. After the Confirmation Date, the Trust shall prepare and serve on the Office of the U.S. Trustee such quarterly disbursement reports for the Trust as required by the U.S. Trustee for as long as the Bankruptcy Cases remain open.

4.7 <u>Insurance</u>. The Trustee may use Assets in the Trustee's reasonable business judgment to maintain customary insurance coverage, if available, for the protection of the Trust or Debtors' Assets.

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **BENEFICIARIES**

5.1 <u>Incidents of Ownership</u>. The Beneficiaries shall be the sole beneficiaries of the Trust and the Assets, and the Trustee shall retain only such incidents of ownership as are necessary to undertake the actions and transactions authorized in this Agreement, the Plan and the Confirmation Order.

5.2 <u>Interest Beneficial Only</u>. The ownership of a beneficial interest in the Trust shall not entitle any Beneficiary or the Settlor to any title in or to the Assets or to any right to call for a

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partition or division of such assets or to require an accounting, except as specifically provided herein or in the Plan.

5.3 <u>Evidence of Beneficial Interest</u>. Ownership of a beneficial interest in the Assets shall not be evidenced by any certificate, security, or receipt, or in any other form or manner whatsoever, except as maintained on the books and records of the Trust by the Trustee.

5.4 <u>Notice of Transfer of Beneficial Interest</u>. Any notice of a change of beneficial interest ownership as described in Section 11.2 of this Agreement shall be forwarded to the Trustee by registered or certified mail as set forth herein. The notice shall be executed by both the transferee and the transferor, and the signatures of the parties shall be acknowledged before a notary public and as required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(e). The notice must clearly describe the interest to be transferred. The Trustee may rely upon such signatures and acknowledgments as evidence of such transfer without the requirement of any further investigation.

### **ARTICLE VI**

### THIRD PARTY RIGHTS AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

6.1 <u>Reliance</u>. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Plan, or the Confirmation Order, the Trustee may rely and shall be protected in acting upon any resolution, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, consent, order, or other paper or document reasonably believed to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the Trustee.

6.2 <u>Parties Dealing With the Trustee</u>. In the absence of actual knowledge to the contrary, any person dealing with the Trust or the Trustee shall be entitled to rely on the authority of the Trustee or any of the Trustee's agents to act in connection with the Assets. There is no obligation on any Person dealing with the Trustee to inquire into the validity, expediency, or propriety of any transaction by the Trustee or any agent of the Trustee.

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6.3 <u>Limited Recourse</u>. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Plan, or the Confirmation Order, Persons (including any professionals retained by the Trustee in accordance with this Agreement) engaged in transactions with the Trust or the Trustee shall look only to the Assets to satisfy any liability incurred in connection with the carrying out the terms of this Agreement, the Plan, or the Confirmation Order.

6.4 <u>Limitation of Liability</u>. The Trustee and its agents, employees, officers, directors, professionals, attorneys, accountants, advisors, and representatives shall not be subject to any personal liability whatsoever, in tort, contract, or otherwise, to any Person in connection with the Assets or the affairs of the Trust, except for their own gross negligence, willful misconduct, fraud, bad faith, self-dealing or breach of the duty of loyalty. Other than as set forth in the Plan or Confirmation Order, nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to release any Beneficiary from any actions or omissions occurring prior to the Effective Date.

6.5 <u>Non-Liability for Acts of Others</u>. Nothing contained in this Agreement, the Plan, or the Confirmation Order shall be deemed to be an assumption by the Trustee of any of the liabilities, obligations, or duties of the Debtors or Beneficiaries and shall not be deemed to be or contain a covenant or agreement by the Trustee to assume or accept any such liability, obligation, or duty. Any successor Trustee may accept and rely upon any accounting made by or on behalf of any predecessor Trustee hereunder, and any statement or representation made by a predecessor Trustee or its agents as to the assets comprising the Trust Assets or as to any other fact bearing upon the prior administration of the Trust, so long as it has a good faith basis to do so. A Trustee shall not be liable for having accepted and relied in good faith upon any such accounting, statement, or representation if it is later proved to be incomplete, inaccurate, or untrue. A Trustee or successor Trustee shall not be liable for any act or omission of any

predecessor Trustee, nor have a duty to enforce any claims against any predecessor Trustee on account of any such act or omission.

6.6 Indemnification. The Trustee and each of its agents, employees, officers, directors, professionals, attorneys, accountants, advisors and representatives (collectively, the "Indemnified Parties") shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Trust, to the fullest extent permitted by law, solely from the Assets for any losses, claims, damages, liabilities and expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, disbursements, and related expenses which the Indemnified Parties may incur or to which the Indemnified Parties may become subject in connection with any action, suit, proceeding, or investigation brought or threatened against one or more of the Indemnified Parties on account of the acts or omissions of an Indemnified Party solely in its capacity as such; provided, however, that the Trust shall not be liable to indemnify any Indemnified Party for any act or omission constituting gross negligence, willful misconduct, fraud, bad faith, self-dealing or breach of the duty of loyalty by such Indemnified Party. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, the Indemnified Parties shall be entitled to request advances from the Trust to cover reasonable fees and necessary expenses incurred in connection with defending themselves in any action brought against them as a result of the acts or omissions, actual or alleged, of an Indemnified Party in its capacity as such; provided, however, that the Trustee shall not be required to make any such advances; provided further, however, that any Indemnified Parties receiving such advances shall repay the amounts so advanced to the Trust upon the entry of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction finding that such Indemnified Parties were not entitled to any indemnity under the provisions of this Section 6.6. This indemnification shall survive the death, dissolution,

resignation, or removal, as may be applicable, of the Indemnified Parties, or the termination of the Trust, and shall inure to the benefit of the Indemnified Parties' heirs and assigns.

## **ARTICLE VII**

## SELECTION, REMOVAL AND COMPENSATION OF TRUSTEE

7.1 <u>Initial Trustee</u>. The initial Trustee shall be selected by the Committee in advance of the Confirmation Hearing.

7.2 <u>Term of Service</u>. The Trustee shall serve until (a) the completion of all the Trustee's duties, responsibilities and obligations under this Agreement and the Plan; (b) termination of the Trust in accordance with this Agreement; or (c) the Trustee's death or dissolution, incapacitation, resignation, or removal.

7.3 <u>Removal of a Trustee</u>. Any Person serving as Trustee may be removed at any time and for any reason by the Liquidating Trust Committee or upon the determination of the Bankruptcy Court on a motion for cause shown. Any Trustee so removed is entitled to payment of reasonable fees and necessary expenses accrued prior to removal subject to the terms of this Agreement.

7.4 <u>Resignation of Trustee</u>. The Trustee may resign at any time by giving the Liquidating Trust Committee at least thirty (30) days' written notice of the Trustee's intention to do so. In the event of a resignation, the resigning Trustee shall render to the Liquidating Trust Committee a full and complete accounting of monies and assets received, disbursed, and held during the term of office of that Trustee. The resignation shall be effective on the later of (i) the date specified in the notice; (ii) the date that is thirty days (30) after the date the notice is delivered; or (iii) the date the accounting described in the preceding sentence is delivered.

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7.5 <u>Appointment of Successor Trustee</u>. Upon the resignation, death, incapacity, or removal of a Trustee, the Liquidating Trust Committee shall, by a majority vote of those members voting, appoint a successor Trustee to fill the vacancy so created. Any successor Trustee so appointed shall consent to and accept in writing the terms of this Agreement and agree that the provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successor Trustee and all of the successor Trustee's heirs and legal and personal representatives, successors or assigns. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement, in the event that a successor Trustee is not appointed within sixty (60) days of the occurrence or effectiveness, as applicable, of the prior Trustee's resignation, death, incapacity, or removal, the Liquidating Trust Committee shall be authorized to move the Bankruptcy Court for the appointment of a successor Trustee.

7.6 <u>Powers and Duties of Successor Trustee</u>. A successor Trustee shall have all the rights, privileges, powers, and duties of the predecessor Trustee under this Agreement and the Plan.

7.7 <u>Trust Continuance</u>. The death, incapacity, resignation or removal of the Trustee shall not terminate the Trust or revoke any existing agency created pursuant to this Agreement or invalidate any action theretofore taken by the Trustee.

7.8 <u>Compensation and Costs of Administration</u>. The Trustee may retain and compensate professionals (including himself) as provided for in Section 3.2 of this Agreement. The reasonable fees and actual and necessary expenses of such professionals and the Trustee shall be paid by the Trustee upon each monthly submission of a fee statement to the Trustee and/or the Liquidating Trust Committee, as applicable, in accordance with the following procedures. The Trustee shall deliver his or her invoices or fee statements to the Liquidating Trust Committee before payment from the Trust Assets shall be allowed. Any professionals retained by

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the Trustee pursuant to this Agreement shall deliver their invoices or fee statements to the Trustee and the Liquidating Trust Committee before payment from the Trust Assets shall be allowed. The Trustee and Liquidating Trust Committee, as applicable, shall have twenty (20) days from the delivery of any invoice or fee statement to give notice of an objection to the fee statement to the professional seeking compensation or reimbursement (including the Trustee himself). For an objection to be valid, it shall be in writing and set forth in detail the specific fees objected to and the basis for the objection. The uncontested portion of each invoice shall be paid within twenty-five (25) days after its original delivery to the Trustee. Any objection that remains unresolved fifteen (15) days after it is made shall be submitted to the Bankruptcy Court for resolution.

7.9 Reporting and Filing Requirements.

A. Within 30 days after June 30 and December 31 of each calendar year in which the Trust shall remain in existence, the Trustee shall file a report with the Bankruptcy Court of all Assets received by the Trust, all Available Trust Cash disbursed to Beneficiaries, all Assets held by the Trust, and all fees, income, and expenses related to the Trust during the preceding calendar year. The Trustee's report shall be provided to the Liquidating Trust Committee upon filing with the Bankruptcy Court, and shall be available to any Beneficiary upon request.

B. The Trustee shall also timely prepare, file and distribute such additional statements, reports and submissions as may be necessary to cause the Trust and the Trustee to be in compliance with applicable law.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

## **TRUST OBLIGATIONS**

8.1 The Trustee shall file tax returns for the Trust as a grantor trust pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.671-4(a) and any other applicable laws or regulations.

8.2 To the extent reasonably practicable unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, the Trustee shall, within seventy-five (75) days after the end of each calendar year, send to each Beneficiary a statement setting forth the Beneficiary's share or items of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit and will instruct all such holders to report such items on their federal income tax returns. Such a statement shall also be sent to each Beneficiary within seventy-five (75) days of the dissolution of the Trust. The Trust's taxable income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit will be allocated (subject to provisions of the Plan and Confirmation Order relating to Disputed Claims) to the Beneficiaries in accordance with their relative beneficial interests in the Trust, as determined pursuant to this Agreement.

8.3 As soon as practicable after the Effective Date, the Trustee (to the extent that he or she deems it necessary or appropriate in the reasonable exercise of his or her discretion) shall, in good faith, value the Assets, and shall apprise the Beneficiaries of such valuation. The valuation shall be used consistently by all parties (including the Debtors, the Trustee, and the Trust Beneficiaries) for all federal income tax purposes. The Bankruptcy Court shall resolve any dispute regarding the valuation of the Assets.

#### ARTICLE IX

### MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

9.1 The Trustee shall maintain books and records containing a description of all property from time to time constituting the Assets and an accounting of all receipts and

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disbursements. Said books and records shall be open to inspection by any Beneficiary at any reasonable time during normal business hours. The Trustee shall furnish to any Beneficiary upon written request an annual statement of receipts and disbursements, including a summary of all income and expenses of the Trust.

# ARTICLE X

# **DURATION OF TRUST**

10.1 <u>Duration</u>. The Trust shall become effective upon the Effective Date of the Plan, and the Trust and its provisions herein shall remain and continue in full force and effect until the Trust is terminated.

10.2 <u>Termination</u>. The Trust shall terminate upon the occurrence of the earlier of (a) the full liquidation, administration, and distribution of the Assets in accordance with this Agreement and the full performance of all other duties and functions of the Trustee set forth in this Agreement, the Plan, and the Confirmation Order, and (b) the fifth (5th) anniversary of the Effective Date. Such termination may be extended upon request of the Trustee if approved by the Bankruptcy Court for cause shown prior to the termination of the Trust on motion to the Bankruptcy Court filed no earlier than six (6) months prior to the scheduled termination of the Trust.

10.3 <u>Continuance of Trust for Winding Up</u>. After the termination of the Trust and for the purpose of liquidating and winding up the affairs of the Trust, the Trustee shall continue to act as such until the Trustee's duties have been fully performed, including, without limitation, such post-distribution tasks as necessary to windup the affairs of the Trust. After the termination of the Trust, the Trustee shall retain for a period of six (6) months the books, records, Beneficiary lists, and certificates and other documents and files which shall have been delivered

to or created by the Trustee. At the Trustee's discretion, all of such records and documents may, but need not, be destroyed at any time after six (6) months from the completion and winding up of the affairs of the Trust. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, upon the discharge of all liabilities of the Trust and final distribution of the Trust, the Trustee shall have no further duties or obligations hereunder. For the avoidance of doubt, the limitations on liability contained in Sections 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6 hereof shall apply to any actions taken by the Trustee during the course of winding up the affairs of the Trust.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

11.1 <u>Jurisdiction</u>. The Bankruptcy Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over (i) the Trust and the Trustee with respect to the administration of and activities relating to the Trust, as well as (ii) any issues or disputes arising out of this Agreement; provided, however, that notwithstanding the foregoing, the Trustee shall have the power and authority to bring any action in any court of competent jurisdiction to prosecute any Causes of Action assigned to the Trust.

11.2 <u>Limitation on Transferability</u>. A beneficial interest in the Trust shall be nonassignable and non-transferable except by operation of law. An assignment or transfer shall not be effective until appropriate notification and proof thereof is submitted to the Trustee, and the Trustee may continue to pay all amounts to or for the benefit of the assigning or transferring Beneficiary until receipt of proper notification and proof of assignment or transfer. The Trustee may rely upon such proof without the requirement of any further investigation.

11.3 <u>Notices</u>. All notices to be given to Beneficiaries may be given by ordinary mail, or may be delivered personally, to the holders at the addresses appearing on the books kept by Trustee. Any notice or other communication which may be or is required to be given, served, or

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sent to the Trustee shall be in writing and shall be sent by registered or certified United States mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or transmitted by hand delivery or facsimile (if receipt is confirmed) addressed as follows:

If to the Trust/Trustee:

With a copy to:

Lowenstein Sandler PC 65 Livingston Avenue Roseland, New Jersey 07068 Attn: Bruce Buechler, Esq.

or to such other address as may from time to time be provided in written notice by the Trustee.

11.4 <u>No Bond</u>. Notwithstanding any state law to the contrary, the Trustee (including any successor) shall be exempt from giving any bond or other security in any jurisdiction.

11.5 <u>Governing Law</u>. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to conflicts of law principles.

11.6 <u>Successors and Assigns</u>. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.

11.7 <u>Headings</u>. The various headings of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the meaning or understanding of this Agreement or any provision hereof.

11.8 <u>No Execution</u>. All funds in the Trust shall be deemed *in custodia legis* until such times as the funds have actually been paid to or for the benefit of a Beneficiary, and no Beneficiary or any other Person can bind, pledge, encumber, execute upon, garnish, or attach the Assets or the Trustee in any manner or compel payment from the Trust except by Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court. Payment will be governed solely by the Plan and this Agreement.

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11.9 <u>Plan and Confirmation Order</u>. To the extent that the terms of this Agreement are inconsistent with the terms set forth in the Plan, then the terms of this Agreement shall govern and control. To the extent that the terms of this Agreement are inconsistent with the terms set forth in the Confirmation Order, then the terms of the Confirmation Order shall govern and control.

11.10 <u>Intention of Parties to Establish Grantor Trust</u>. This Agreement is intended to create a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes and, to the extent provided by law, shall be governed and construed in all respects as such a grantor trust.

11.11 <u>Amendment</u>. This Agreement may only be amended with the consent of the Liquidating Trust Committee or by order of the Bankruptcy Court.

11.12 <u>Severability</u>. If any term, provision, covenant, or restriction contained in this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction or other authority to be invalid, void, unenforceable, or against its regulatory policy, the remainder of the terms, provisions, covenants, and restrictions contained in this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement (or are deemed to have so executed this Agreement) as of the day and year written above.

Trustee

Borders Group, Inc.

By:\_\_\_\_\_

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Title: Name: Title:

Borders International Services, Inc.

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Title:

Borders, Inc.

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Title:

Borders Direct, LLC

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Title:

Borders Properties, Inc.

By:\_\_\_\_\_ Name: Title:

Borders Online, Inc.

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Title:

BGP (UK) Limited

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Title: