

FILED
Clerk
District Court

JAN 14 2019

for the Northern Mariana Islands
By
(Deputy Clerk)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BETTY JOHNSON, on behalf of herself, and as
a representative of a class of similarly-situated
persons,

Plaintiffs,

v.

RALPH DELEON GUERRERO TORRES,
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands ("CNMI"), *et al.*,

Defendants.

CIVIL CASE NO. 09-00023

ORDER

re Payment of Trustee's Invoices
(May 2018 to December 2018)

On September 25, 2013, the court appointed Civile and Tang, PLLC, acting by and through its principal representative Joyce C.H. Tang, as the Trustee for the Settlement Fund. *See* Order re Appointment of Trustee, ECF No. 526. Pursuant to the terms of the appointment, the Trustee now requests compensation for work performed and expenses incurred during the months of April 2018 through November 2018. The Trustee's invoices are summarized as follows:

Month of Invoice	Invoice No.	Professional Fees	Expenses	Total
May 2018	38714	\$6,525.00		\$6,525.00
June 2018	39063	\$4,537.50		\$4,537.50
July 2018	39425	\$4,397.50		\$4,397.50
August 2018	39784	\$7,537.50	\$350.49	\$7,887.99
September 2018	40146	\$9,442.50	\$160.90	\$9,603.40

October 2018	40639	\$2,922.50		\$2,922.50
November 2018	40994	\$10,675.00		\$10,675.00
December 2018	41126	\$9,267.50	\$565.49	\$9,832.99
TOTAL		\$55,305.00	\$1,076.88	\$56,381.88

Attached to this Order as Exhibits 1 through 8 are unredacted versions of these invoices, while the redacted¹ versions of the invoices are appended as Exhibits A through H. The court orders the Clerk of Court to file Exhibits 1 through 8 under seal.

The court has reviewed these invoices and finds the request for compensation and reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable. The court is satisfied with the work performed by the Trustee during this time frame. Accordingly, pursuant to the terms of the Order re Appointment of Trustee, the court hereby orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the sum of **Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and Thirty-Eight Cents (\$50,851.38)**. This amount represents ninety percent (90%) of the Trustee's professional fees and all expenses incurred during the months of April 2018 through November 2018 (invoices dated May 2018 to December 2018). The court further orders the Settlement Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the Trustee the sum of **Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$5,530.50)**, which represents ten percent (10%) of the Trustee's professional fees for this time period. The Trustee may petition for release of this 10% retainer on a quarterly basis, subject to the court's satisfaction of the Trustee's work and any objections to the Trustee's compensation requests. *See* Order of Appointment of Trustee at 6, ECF No. 526. Objections to the Trustee's request for remuneration may be made within ten (10) days of this Order by the Plaintiff, Class Counsel and counsel for the CNMI Government. *Id.*

Furthermore, the Trustee also petitions for release of the 10% retainer withheld from its invoices for services rendered and expenses incurred during the months of December 2016 to March 2018. *See* Orders re Payment of Trustee's Invoices, ECF Nos. 773-775. There being no objection to said invoices and the court being satisfied with the Trustee's work, the court orders the

¹ The Trustee has redacted from the invoices personal identifiers and information that may affect pending litigation and the research of other confidential issues.

1 Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the additional sum of **Eight Thousand One Hundred Six**
2 **Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$8,106.75).**

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.



/s/ Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
Designated Judge
Dated: Jan 14, 2019