

FILED

Clerk
District Court

JAN 29 2025

for the Northern Mariana Islands
By JP
(Deputy Clerk)UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDSBETTY 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

ORDERre Payment of Trustee's Invoices
(August 2024- December 2024)

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 August 2024 through December 2024. The Trustee's invoices are summarized as follows:

Date of Invoice	Invoice No.	Professional Services	Expenses	BGRT	Total
Sept 6, 2024	58376	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$5.25	\$215.25
Oct. 10, 2024	58588	\$6,380.00	\$516.61	\$159.50	\$7,056.11
Nov. 8, 2024	58733	\$29,500.00	\$4,478.34	\$737.50	\$34,715.84
Dec. 6, 2024	58917	\$1,750.00	\$0.00	\$43.75	\$1,793.75
Jan. 8, 2025	59031	\$10,045.00	\$0.00	\$251.12	\$10,296.12
TOTAL		\$47,885.00	\$4,994.95	\$1,197.12	\$54,077.07

Attached to this Order as Exhibits 1 through 5 are unredacted invoices, while the redacted¹ invoices are appended as Exhibits A through E. The court orders the Clerk of Court to file Exhibits 1 through 5 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. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of the Order re Appointment of Trustee, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the sum of **Fifty-Four Thousand Seventy-Seven and 07/100 Dollars (\$54,077.07)**. This amount represents ninety percent (90%) of the Trustee's professional fees and all expenses and gross receipts taxes incurred during the months of August 2024 through December 2024 (invoices dated September 2024 to January 2025).

The court further orders the Settlement Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the Trustee the sum of **Four Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Eight and 50/100 Dollars (\$4,788.50)**, 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.*

Finally, the Trustee petitions for release of the 10% retainer withheld from its invoices for services rendered during the months of January 2024 through July 2024. *See* Order re Payment of Trustee's Invoices, ECF No. 874. There being no objection to said invoices and the court being satisfied with the Trustee's work, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the additional sum of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Eight and 75/100 Dollars (\$3,568.75)**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



/s/ Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
Designated Judge
Dated: Jan 29, 2025

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