

FILED
Clerk
District Court

FEB 20 2018

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
(January 2017 to February 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 December 2016 through January 2017. The Trustee's invoices are summarized as follows:

Month of Invoice	Invoice No.	Professional Fees	Expenses	Total
January 2017	33266	\$5,075.00		\$5,075.00
February 2017	33604	\$1,400.00		\$1,400.00
March 2017	33781	\$2,225.00		\$2,225.00
April 2017	34336	\$1,575.00		\$1,575.00
May 2017	34657	\$2,475.00		\$2,475.00

1	June 2017	35471	\$2,350.00	\$289.49	\$2,639.49
2	July 2017	35045	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
3	August 2017	35682	\$3,275.00		\$3,275.00
4	September 2017	35973	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00
5	October 2017	36303	\$16,325.00	\$283.89	\$16,608.89
6	November 2017	36674	\$1,275.00		\$1,275.00
7	December 2017	36760	\$3,025.00		\$3,025.00
8	January 2018	37801	\$4,850.00		\$4,850.00
9	February 2018	37690	\$2,437.50	\$148.48	\$2,585.98
	TOTAL		\$53,787.50	\$721.86	\$54,509.36

10 Attached to this Order as Exhibits A through N are unredacted versions of these invoices,
11 while the redacted¹ versions of the invoices are appended as Exhibits 1 through 14. The court
12 orders the Clerk of Court to file Exhibits A through N under seal.

13 The court has reviewed these invoices and finds the request for compensation and
14 reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable. The court is satisfied with the work performed by the
15 Trustee during this time frame. Accordingly, pursuant to the terms of the Order re Appointment
16 of Trustee, the court hereby orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the sum of **Forty-Nine**
17 **Thousand One Hundred Thirty Dollars and Sixty-One Cents (\$49,130.61)**. This amount
18 represents ninety percent (90%) of the Trustee's professional fees and all expenses incurred during
19 the months of December 2016 through January 2018 (invoices dated January 2017 to February
20 2018). The court further orders the Settlement Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the Trustee the
21 sum of **Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents**
22 **(\$5,378.75)**, which represents ten percent (10%) of the Trustee's professional fees for this time
23 period. The Trustee may petition for release of this 10% retainer on a quarterly basis, subject to the
24 court's satisfaction of the Trustee's work and any objections to the Trustee's compensation requests.
25 See Order of Appointment of Trustee at 6, ECF No. 526. Objections to the Trustee's request for
26

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

1 remuneration may be made within ten (10) days of this Order by the Plaintiff, Class Counsel and
2 counsel for the CNMI Government. *Id.*

3 Furthermore, the Trustee also petitions for release of the 10% retainer withheld from its
4 invoices for services rendered and expenses incurred during the months of February 2016 to
5 November 2016. *See* Second Amended Order re Payment of Trustee's Invoices (March 2016 -
6 December 2016), ECF No. 762. There being no objection to said invoices and the court being
7 satisfied with the Trustee's work, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the
8 additional sum of **Four Thousand Fifteen Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$4,015.25)**.

9 IT IS SO ORDERED.



/s/ Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
Designated Judge
Dated: Feb 20, 2018