

FILED
Clerk
District Court

JAN 29 2021

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
(August 2020 - December 2020)

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 2020 through December 2020. The Trustee’s invoices are summarized as follows:

Date of Invoice	Invoice No.	Professional Services	Expenses	BGRT	Total
Sept. 10, 2020	48245	\$16,005.00	\$131.69	\$400.13	\$16,536.82
Oct. 8, 2020	48830	\$7,642.50		\$191.06	\$7,833.56
Nov. 9, 2020	49108	\$7,780.00	\$80.98	\$194.50	\$8,055.48
Dec. 10, 2020	49377	\$6,892.50	\$485.52	\$172.31	\$7,550.33
Jan. 8, 2021	49462	\$5,930.00		\$148.25	\$6,078.25
TOTAL		\$44,250.00	\$698.19	\$1,106.25	\$46,054.44

1 Attached to this Order as Exhibits 1 through 5 are unredacted versions of these invoices,
2 while the redacted¹ versions of the invoices are appended as Exhibits A through E. The court orders
3 the Clerk of Court to file Exhibits 1 through 5 under seal.

4 The court has reviewed these invoices and finds the request for compensation and
5 reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable. The court is satisfied with the work performed by the
6 Trustee during this time frame. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of the Order re Appointment of
7 Trustee, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the sum of **Forty-One Thousand**
8 **Six Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars and Forty-Four Cents (\$41,629.44)**. This amount represents
9 ninety percent (90%) of the Trustee's professional fees and all expenses incurred during the months
10 of August 2020 through December 2020 (invoices dated September 2020 to January 2021).

11 The court further orders the Settlement Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the Trustee the
12 sum of **Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$4,425.00)**, which represents ten
13 percent (10%) of the Trustee's professional fees for this time period. The Trustee may petition for
14 release of this 10% retainer on a quarterly basis, subject to the court's satisfaction of the Trustee's
15 work and any objections to the Trustee's compensation requests. *See* Order of Appointment of
16 Trustee at 6, ECF No. 526. Objections to the Trustee's request for remuneration may be made
17 within ten (10) days of this Order by the Plaintiff, Class Counsel and counsel for the CNMI
18 Government. *Id.*

19 Finally, the Trustee petitions for release of the 10% retainer withheld from its invoices for
20 services rendered during the months of November 2019 through July 2020. *See* Order re Payment
21 of Trustee's Invoices, ECF No. 803. There being no objection to said invoices and the court being
22 satisfied with the Trustee's work, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the
23 additional sum of **Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and Twenty-Five**
24 **Cents (\$11,522.25)**.

25 IT IS SO ORDERED.



26 /s/ Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
27 Designated Judge
28 Dated: Jan 29, 2021

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