


**FILED**  
 Clerk  
 District Court  
**FEB 15 2024**

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  
 (September 2023- December 2023)

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 March 2023 through August 2023. The Trustee’s invoices are summarized as follows:

| <b>Date of Invoice</b> | <b>Invoice No.</b> | <b>Professional Services</b> | <b>Expenses</b>   | <b>BGRT</b>       | <b>Total</b>       |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Oct. 6, 2023           | 56328              | \$9,485.00                   | \$76.50           | \$237.13          | \$9,798.63         |
| Nov. 9, 2023           | 56516              | \$16,985.00                  | \$3.30            | \$424.62          | \$17,412.92        |
| Dec. 8, 2023           | 56702              | \$7,140.00                   | \$0.00            | \$178.50          | \$7,318.50         |
| Jan, 12, 2024          | 56749              | \$10,815.00                  | \$1,446.45        | \$270.38          | \$12,531.83        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           |                    | <b>\$44,425.00</b>           | <b>\$1,526.25</b> | <b>\$1,110.62</b> | <b>\$47,061.87</b> |

1 Attached to this Order as Exhibit 1 are unredacted invoices, while the redacted<sup>1</sup> invoices are  
2 appended as Exhibit A. The court orders the Clerk of Court to file Exhibit 1 under seal.

3 The court has reviewed these invoices and finds the request for compensation and  
4 reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable. The court is satisfied with the work performed by the  
5 Trustee during this time frame. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of the Order re Appointment of  
6 Trustee, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the sum of **Forty-Two Thousand**  
7 **Six Hundred Nineteen and 37/100 Dollars (\$42,619.37)**. This amount represents ninety percent  
8 (90%) of the Trustee's professional fees and all expenses and gross receipts taxes incurred during  
9 the months of September 2023 through December 2023 (invoices dated October 2023 to  
10 January 2024).

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 Forty-Two and 50/100 Dollars (\$4,442.50)**, which  
13 represents ten percent (10%) of the Trustee's professional fees for this time period. The Trustee  
14 may petition for release of this 10% retainer on a quarterly basis, subject to the court's satisfaction  
15 of the Trustee's work and any objections to the Trustee's compensation requests. *See* Order of  
16 Appointment of Trustee at 6, ECF No. 526. Objections to the Trustee's request for remuneration  
17 may be made within ten (10) days of this Order by the Plaintiff, Class Counsel and counsel for the  
18 CNMI 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 March 2023 through August 2023. *See* Order re Payment  
21 of Trustee's Invoices, ECF No. 870. 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 **Two Thousand Sixty-Nine and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,069.00)**.

24 IT IS SO ORDERED.



25 /s/ Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood  
26 Designated Judge  
27 Dated: Feb 15, 2024

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