

FILED  
Clerk  
District Court  
OCT 17 2024

for the Northern Mariana Islands  
By JP  
(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 2024- July 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 January 2024 through July 2024. The Trustee’s invoices are summarized as follows:

Date of Invoice	Invoice No.	Professional Services	Expenses	BGRT	Total
Feb. 14, 2024	57079	\$12,390.00	\$267.39	\$309.75	\$12,967.14
Mar. 11, 2024	57261	\$630.00	\$0.00	\$15.75	\$645.75
Apr. 4, 2024	57306	\$11,852.50	\$74.95	\$296.31	\$12,223.76
May 3, 2024	57562	\$2,275.00	\$0.00	\$56.88	\$2,331.88

1	June 5, 2024	57815	\$1,875.00	\$0.00	\$46.88	\$1,921.88
2	July 5, 2024	57873	\$1,155.00	\$0.00	\$28.87	\$1,183.87
3	Aug. 9, 2024	58190	\$5,510.00	\$0.00	\$137.75	\$5,647.75
4	<b>TOTAL</b>		\$35,687.50	\$342.34	\$892.18	\$36,922.02

5 Attached to this Order as Exhibits 1 through 7 are unredacted invoices, while the redacted<sup>1</sup>  
6 invoices are appended as Exhibits A through G. The court orders the Clerk of Court to file  
7 Exhibits 1 through 7 under seal.

8 The court has reviewed these invoices and finds the request for compensation and  
9 reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable. The court is satisfied with the work performed by the  
10 Trustee during this time frame. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of the Order re Appointment of  
11 Trustee, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the Trustee the sum of **Thirty-Three**  
12 **Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Three and 27/100 Dollars (\$33,353.27)**. This amount  
13 represents ninety percent (90%) of the Trustee's professional fees and all expenses and gross  
14 receipts taxes incurred during the months of January 2024 through July 2024 (invoices dated  
15 February 2024 to August 2024).

16 The court further orders the Settlement Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the Trustee the  
17 sum of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Eight and 75/100 Dollars (\$3,568.75)**, which  
18 represents ten percent (10%) of the Trustee's professional fees for this time period. The Trustee  
19 may petition for release of this 10% retainer on a quarterly basis, subject to the court's satisfaction  
20 of the Trustee's work and any objections to the Trustee's compensation requests. *See* Order of  
21 Appointment of Trustee at 6, ECF No. 526. Objections to the Trustee's request for remuneration  
22 may be made within ten (10) days of this Order by the Plaintiff, Class Counsel and counsel for the  
23 CNMI Government. *Id.*

24 Finally, the Trustee petitions for release of the 10% retainer withheld from its invoices for  
25 services rendered during the months of September 2023 through December 2023. *See* Order re  
26 Payment of Trustee's Invoices, ECF No. 871. There being no objection to said invoices and the

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

1 court being satisfied with the Trustee's work, the court orders the Settlement Fund to pay the  
2 Trustee the additional sum of **Four Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Two and 50/100 Dollars**  
3 **(\$4,442.50).**

4 IT IS SO ORDERED.



5 /s/ **Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood**  
6 **Designated Judge**  
7 **Dated: Oct 17, 2024**

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