

FILED
Clerk
District Court

JAN 30 2014

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

for the Northern Mariana Islands
By 
(Deputy Clerk)

BETTY JOHNSON, on behalf of herself, and as
a representative of a class of similarly-situated
persons,

CIVIL CASE NO. 09-00023

Plaintiffs,

v.

ORDER

ELOY S. INOS, Governor of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
("CNMI"), *et al.*,

Defendants.

Pending before the court are several petitions for attorneys fees. On January 29, 2014, the court held two teleconferences with counsel to discuss the status of their settlement negotiations with regard to said petitions. The Government advised the court that it had reached settlements with both Attorney Jorgensen and Attorney Woodruff but did not reach a settlement with the Bronster Hoshibata firm or Attorney Lord. Accordingly, the court orders the following:

- **Bronster Hoshibata Petition for Attorneys Fees and Costs (ECF No. 492) and Supplemental Submission (ECF No. 572)** - The court will hold an evidentiary hearing on the Bronster Hoshibata petition on Monday, February 3, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. Attorneys Bronster, Hatch, Jorgensen and Woodruff are ordered to be present for said hearing, along with counsel for the CNMI Government and court-appointed Trustee Joyce Tang. The court will permit Mr. Lord to participate by telephone for this hearing.¹

¹ In the event the CNMI Government and Bronster Hoshibata reach a settlement prior to the scheduled hearing, the court will vacate the February 3rd evidentiary hearing. The CNMI Government and Bronster Hoshibata shall thereafter file a stipulated motion to approve such a settlement, which will be scheduled for hearing on March 4, 2014, consistent with the schedule set forth below with regard to the stipulated motions to approve the settlements reached with Messrs. Jorgensen and Woodruff.

1 • **Lord's Amended Fifth Declaration in Support of Petition for Attorneys Fees and Costs**
2 **(ECF No. 602):** On January 27, 2014, the CNMI Government filed an Opposition to the
3 latest submissions of Mr. Lord. *See* ECF No. 604. Therein, the CNMI Government moved
4 to strike Mr. Lord's amended submissions (ECF Nos. 598 and 602). The court hereby
5 denies the motion to strike; however, the court will grant the CNMI's request for additional
6 time to thoroughly review and respond to Mr. Lord's latest submission. Accordingly, the
7 evidentiary hearing on Mr. Lord's request for attorneys fees and costs shall be held on
8 March 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. Any objection or opposition to Mr. Lord's fee application shall
9 be filed by February 19, 2014. Mr. Lord shall thereafter file a reply to any such objection
10 or opposition no later than February 24, 2014.

11 • **CNMI Compliance and Trustee Report** - Following the March 4th evidentiary hearing
12 on Mr. Lord's fee request, the CNMI Government shall report on its compliance with the
13 terms of the Settlement Agreement, and the appointed Trustee, Civile & Tang, PLLC,
14 acting by and through its principal representative Joyce C.H. Tang, shall present an update
15 on the status of the Settlement Fund. Ms. Tang shall file a written report no later than
16 February 11, 2014. Comments to the Trustee's report shall be filed no later than
17 February 19, 2014. Ms. Tang may respond to any such comments by February 24, 2014.

18 • **Stipulated Motions to Approve Settlement of Jorgensen and Woodruff's Fee**
19 **Applications** - The Government and Attorneys Jorgensen and Woodruff shall file stipulated
20 motions to approve the settlements reached with said counsel no later than January 31,
21 2014. Oppositions/objections to the stipulated motions to approve shall be filed by
22 February 19, 2014. Replies to such oppositions/objections shall be filed no later than
23 February 24, 2014. The court will hold a hearing on the stipulated motions to approve on
24 March 4, 2014, immediately following the presentation of the Trustee's report.

25 IT IS SO ORDERED.



/s/ **Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood**
Designated Judge
Dated: Jan 30, 2014