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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.

ELOY S. INOS, 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 -December 2013)

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 first four months of her appointment. To this end, the Trustee has submitted four invoices summarized as follows:

Month	Professional Services	Expenses	Total
September 2013	\$ 6,450.00	\$ 421.00	\$ 6,871.00
October 2013	\$ 13,260.00	\$ 848.84	\$ 14,108.84
November 2013	\$ 8,427.50	\$ 598.07	\$ 9,025.57
December 2013	\$ 13,360.00	\$ 57.32	\$ 13,417.32
TOTAL	\$ 35,047.50	\$ 1,504.23	\$ 36,551.73

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1 Attached to this Order as Exhibits 1-4 are unredacted versions of these invoices, while the
2 redacted versions of the invoices and supporting documentation are appended as Exhibits 5-8.¹ The
3 Clerk of Court is directed to file Exhibits 1-4 under seal.

4 The court has reviewed these invoices and finds the request for compensation and
5 reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable. During this time frame, the Trustee diligently worked
6 to ensure a smooth transition from the CNMI Retirement Fund. The Trustee transferred assets to
7 the newly created Settlement Fund, created a Settlement Fund website, worked with Governor Inos
8 and other CNMI government officials to ensure timely receipt of payment and employer
9 contributions, and developed a budget for Fiscal Year 2014. The Trustee also drafted and issued
10 RFPs to secure the services of an investment consultant and a software program capable of
11 calculating members' benefits and auditing members' accounts.

12 Accordingly, pursuant to terms of the Order re Appointment of Trustee, the court hereby
13 orders the Settlement Fund pay the Trustee the sum of thirty-three thousand forty-six and 98/100
14 dollars (\$33,046.98). This amount represents 90% of the professional fees² and 100% of all
15 expenses incurred during the months of September 2013 to December 2013. The court further
16 orders the Settlement Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the Trustee the sum of three thousand five
17 hundred four and 75/100 dollars (\$3,504.75), which represents 10% of the Trustee's professional
18 fees for this time period.³ Pursuant to the Order re Appointment of Trustee, the Trustee may
19 petition for release of the 10% retainage on a quarterly basis, subject to the court's satisfaction of
20 the Trustee's work and any objections to the Trustee's compensation requests. *See* Order re
21

22 ¹ The Trustee has redacted from the invoices personal identifiers, the names of retirees,
23 information that may affect pending litigation and the research of other confidential issues.

24 ² The professional fees for the first four months total \$35,047.50. Ninety percent of
25 these total fees is equivalent to \$31,542.75.

26 ³ The Order re Appointment of Trustee provided that the 10% retainage be maintained
27 in a separate trust accruing interest at prevailing rates for trust accounts. ECF No. 526 at 6.
Based on subsequent discussions, the Trustee has agreed to waive her right to such interest.

1 Appointment of Trustee, ECF No. 526 at 6. Objections to the Trustee's request for remuneration
2 may be made within ten days of this Order by the Plaintiff, Class Counsel and counsel for the CNMI
3 Government. *Id.*

4 IT IS SO ORDERED.



5 /s/ Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
6 Designated Judge
7 Dated: Apr 01, 2014
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