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Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles

# 06/29/2022

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court B. Guerrero Deputy

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Attorneys for Plaintiff, SIMON DETHRASAVONG, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated or aggrieved,

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

SIMON DETHRASAVONG, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated or aggrieved,

Plaintiffs.

ASI COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 20STCV32312

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Kenneth R. Freeman, Dept. SS-14]

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT AND PROVISIONAL CLASS CERTIFICATION FOR SETTLEMENT PURPOSES ONLY

[Lodged concurrently with Motion for Preliminary Approval

# **HEARING INFORMATION:**

November 8, 2022 Î ₺ BeG DATE:

10:00 a.m. TIME: DEPT: SS-14

This Court, having considered the Motion of plaintiff Simon Dethrasavong ("Plaintiff" or "Mr. Dethrasavong") for Preliminary Approval of Class and Representative Action Settlement and Provisional Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only ("Motion for Preliminary Approval"), the Declarations of David D. Bibiyan and Jasmin K. Gill, the Joint Stipulation Re: Class Action and Representative Action Settlement (the "Settlement Agreement"), the Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement ("Class Notice"), and other documents submitted in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, hereby **ORDERS**, **ADJUDGES AND DECREES THAT**:

- 1. The definitions set out in the Settlement Agreement are incorporated by reference into this Order; all terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order.
- 2. The Court certifies the following settlement class for the purpose of settlement only: all current and former non-exempt, hourly-paid employees who worked at any time for ASI Computer Technologies, Inc. ("ASI") from August 21, 2016 through January 1, 2022 ("Class Period") in California, including thirty-two (32) employees who were allegedly misclassified by Defendant as "exempt" employees ("Class Members").
- 3. The Court preliminarily appoints named plaintiff Mr. Dethrasavong as a Class Representative, and David D. Bibiyan of Bibiyan Law Group, P.C. as well as Jasmin K. Gill of J. Gill Law Group, P.C. as Class Counsel.
- 4. The Court preliminarily approves the proposed class settlement upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds, on a preliminary basis, that the settlement appears to be within the range of reasonableness of settlement that could ultimately be given final approval by the Court. It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the settlement amount is fair, adequate and reasonable as to all potential Class Members when balanced against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to liability and damages issues. It further appears that extensive and costly investigation and research has been conducted such that counsel for the parties at this time are reasonably able to evaluate their respective positions. It further appears to the Court that the settlement at this time will avoid substantial additional costs by all parties, as well as the delay and risks that would be presented by the further prosecution of the Action. It further appears that the settlement has been reached as the result of intensive, non-collusive, arms-length

- 5. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Class Notice that has been submitted herewith.
- 6. The Court directs the mailing of the Class Notice by first-class regular U.S. Mail to Class Members in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds that the dissemination of the Class Notice set forth in the Settlement Agreement complies with the requirements of law, and appears to be the best notice practicable under the circumstances.
- 7. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the definition and disposition of the Gross Settlement Amount of \$1,036,950.00, which is inclusive of attorneys' fees up to 35% the Gross Settlement Amount (or \$362,932.50 if the Gross Settlement Amount is not escalated pursuant to Paragraph 8 below), in addition to actual costs not to exceed \$25,000; an enhancement award of \$7,500.00 for Plaintiff; costs of settlement administration of no more than \$7,750; and PAGA penalties in the amount of \$50,000.00, of which \$37,500 (75%) will be paid to the LWDA and \$12,500.00 (25%) will be paid to Aggrieved Employees. The Gross Settlement Amount expressly excludes Employer Taxes, which will be paid separately and apart by Defendant on the wages portion of the Settlement Amount.
- 8. Defendant represents that there are no more than 20,739 Workweeks worked by Class Members between August 21, 2016 through October 29, 2021. In the event the number of Workweeks in the Class Period is 10% more than 20,739 Workweeks for the Class Period, then the Gross Settlement Amount shall be increased proportionally by the Workweeks in excess of 22,812 workweeks multiplied by the Workweek Value. The Workweek Value shall be calculated by dividing the current Gross Settlement Amount (\$1,036,950.00) by 20,739, which amounts to a Workweek Value of \$50.00. Thus, for example, should there be 23,000 Workweeks in the Class Period, then the Gross Settlement Amount shall be increased by \$9,350.00. (23,000 Workweeks 22,812 Workweeks = 187 Workweeks x \$50.00 per Workweek.)
- 9. The Court appoints Phoenix Settlement Administrators ("Phoenix") as the Settlement Administrator, and approves payment of administrative costs, not to exceed \$7,750.00, out of the Gross Settlement Amount for services to be rendered by Phoenix on behalf of the class.

- 10. The Court directs Defendant to, within ten (10) calendar days of the date of this Order, provide the Settlement Administrator with the "Class List" for Settlement Class Members providing the following information for each Settlement Class Member: (1) name, last known address(es) and last known telephone number(s) currently in Defendant's possession, custody, or control; (2) Social Security Number(s) in Defendant's possession, custody, or control; (3) the number of Class Workweeks and Workweeks during the PAGA Period; and (4) the hire dates and termination or resignation dates (if applicable) for each Settlement Class Member, which shall be made available to Class Counsel upon request. The Settlement Administrator shall perform an address search using the United States Postal Service National Change of Address ("NCOA") database and update the addresses contained on the Class List with the newly-found addresses, if any.
- 11. Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the Class List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator shall mail the Class Notice in English and Spanish to the Class Members via first-class regular U.S. Mail using the most current mailing address information available. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain a Class List with continuously updated contact information for the Class Members and maintain a list with names and all addresses to which notice was given, and digital copies of all the Settlement Administrator's records evidencing the giving of notice to any Settlement Class Member, for at least four (4) years from the Effective Final Approval Date.
- 12. If a Class Notice from the initial notice mailing is returned as undeliverable, the Settlement Administrator will attempt to obtain a current address for the Settlement Class Member to whom the returned Class Notice had been mailed, within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the returned Class Notice, by: (1) contacting the Settlement Class Member by phone, if possible, and (2) undertaking skip tracing. If the Settlement Administrator is successful in obtaining a new address, it will promptly re-mail the Class Notice to the Settlement Class Member. Further, any Class Notices that are returned to the Settlement Administrator with a forwarding address before the Response Deadline shall be promptly re-mailed to the forwarding address affixed thereto. Class Members who are re-mailed a Class Notice shall have an additional fifteen (15) calendar days from the re-mailing, or forty-five (45) days from the date of the initial mailing, whichever is later, in

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which to postmark a Request for Exclusion, written objection or to dispute their attributed workweek count in the Class Period and/or PAGA Period.

- 13. The deadline for filing objections to any of the terms of the settlement shall be forty-five (45) days from the date of mailing of the Class Notice (as the same may be extended in the event of the remailing of a Class Notice). Any Class Member who wishes to object to the settlement must mail a written objection to the Settlement Administrator, who will email a copy of the objection forthwith to Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel and attach each objection, if any, to the declaration that Class Counsel files with the Court in support of the Motion for Final Approval. The objection should set forth in writing: (1) the objector's name and address, and (2) the reason(s) for the objection, along with whatever legal authority, if any, the objector asserts supports the objection. Any Class Member who fails to make his or her objection in the manner provided for in this Order may still be heard at the Final Approval Hearing.
- 14. Any Class Member may request exclusion from (*i.e.*, "opt out" of) the Settlement by mailing a written request to be excluded from the Settlement ("Request for Exclusion") to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must include the Class Member's name, social security number and signature and the following statement or something to its effect: "Please exclude me from the Settlement Class in the Simon Dethrasavong v. ASI Computer Technologies, Inc. matter" or a statement of similar meaning. The Settlement Administrator shall immediately provide copies of all Requests for Exclusion to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel and shall report the Requests for Exclusions that it receives, to the Court, in its declaration to be provided in advance of the Final Approval Hearing. Any Settlement Class Member who requests exclusion using this procedure will not be entitled to receive any payment from the Settlement and will not be bound by the Settlement Agreement or have any right to object to, appeal, or comment on the Settlement. Any Settlement Class Member who does not opt out of the Settlement by submitting a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be bound by all terms of the Settlement, including those pertaining to the Released Claims, as well as any Judgment that may be entered by the Court if Final Approval of the Settlement is granted.

- 15. If a Class Member objects to the Settlement, the Class Member will remain a member of the Settlement Class and, if the Court approves the Settlement, the Class Member will be bound by the terms of the Settlement in the same way and to the same extent as a Class Member who does not object. A Class Member cannot both opt out and object to the Settlement. If a Class Member both objects and opts out of the Settlement, the objection will be overruled and the opt-out will control. Class Members who worked during the PAGA Period that submit a valid Request for Exclusion will still be deemed Aggrieved Employees, will still receive their Individual PAGA Payment, and will be bound by the release encompassed in the PAGA Released Claims as defined in the Settlement Agreement.
- 16. No later than seven (7) calendar days from the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall prepare and submit to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel a declaration attesting to the completion of the notice process as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, including an explanation of the number of attempts to obtain valid mailing addresses for, and re-sending of, any returned Class Notices, as well as the identities, number of, and copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections and comments received by the Settlement Administrator.
- Aggrieved Employees will receive an Individual PAGA Payment. Individual Settlement Payment and Individual PAGA Payment checks shall remain valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days after the date of their issuance. If any checks are not redeemed or deposited within ninety (90) calendar days after mailing, the Settlement Administrator will send a reminder postcard indicating that unless the check is redeemed or deposited in the next ninety (90) calendar days, it will expire and become non-negotiable, and offer to replace the check if it was lost or misplaced. If any checks remain uncashed or not deposited by the expiration of the 90-day period after mailing the reminder notice, the Settlement Administrator will, within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after the checks are mailed, pay the amount of the Individual Settlement Share to the California State Controller's Office in accordance with California Unclaimed Property Law so that the Participating Class Member will have his or her Individual Settlement Share available to him or her per the applicable claim procedure to request that money from the State of California.

Therefore, there will be no unpaid residue or unclaimed or abandoned class member funds and the California Code of Civil Procedure section 384 shall not apply.

- 18. All papers filed in support of final approval, including supporting documents for attorneys' fees and costs, shall be filed by October 7, 2022.
- A final approval hearing shall be held with the Court on **November 8, 2022** at **10:00 a.m.** in Department SS-14, (Spring Street Courthouse) of the above-entitled Court to determine: (1) whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be finally approved by the Court; (2) the amount of attorneys' fees and costs to award Class Counsel; (3) the amount of incentive award to the Class Representative; (4) the amount to be paid to the Settlement Administrator; and (5) the amount to be apportioned to PAGA and/or paid to the LWDA.
- 20. Except as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, in the event the settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of the Settlement, or the settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, or otherwise fails to be enforceable, Plaintiff will not be deemed to have waived, limited or affected in any way any claims, rights or remedies, or defenses in the Action or the PAGA Notice, Defendant will not be deemed to have waived, limited, or affected in any way any of its objections or defenses in the Action and the PAGA Notice, and the parties shall revert to their respective positions in this Action prior to the entry of the Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

 $R^* \setminus AGI$ , 2022

Kenneth R. Freeman/Judge

Judge of the Superior Court

Dated:

1	PROOF OF SERVICE
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
3	I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my mailing address is 515 South Flower Street, Suite 1800, Los Angeles, California 90071.
5 6 7	On June 20, 2022, I caused a true and correct copy of the following document(s) described as [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT AND PROVISIONAL CLASS CERTIFICATION FOR SETTLEMENT PURPOSES ONLY to be served by electronic transmission through Case Anywhere at www.caseanywhere.com addressed to all parties appearing on the electronic service list for the above-entitled case as follows:
8 9 10	Cozen O'Connor Jason Barsanti, Esq. (jbarsanti@cozen.com) 501 West Broadway, Suite 1610 San Diego, CA 92101
11	Attorneys for Defendant ASI Computer Technologies, Inc.
12 13 14	Cozen O'Connor Brett Greving, Esq. (bgreving@cozen.com) Di Tang, Esq. (dtang@cozen.com) 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1400 San Francisco, CA 94104
15	Attorneys for Defendant ASI Computer Technologies, Inc.
16 17 18	Bibiyan Law Group, P.C. Diego Aviles, Esq. (diego@tomorrowlaw.com) David Bibiyan, Esq. (david@tomorrowlaw.com) Jeffrey Bils, Esq. (jbils@tomorrowlaw.com) Sara Ehsani-Nia, Esq. (sara@tomorrowlaw.com)
19 20	Jeffrey Klein, Esq. (jeff@tomorrowlaw.com) Jean Power, Esq. (jean@tomorrowlaw.com) 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 500 Beverly Hills, CA 90211
21	Co-Counsel for Plaintiff Simon Dethrasavong
22 23	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
24	Executed on June 20, 2022 at Los Angeles, California.
25	/s/ Adriana Gonzalez Adriana Gonzalez
26	Aurana Gonzalez
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